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Key Developments

ORT, NTV Feature Party Leaders' Campaign Speeches

Zyuganov on Platform of CPRF

LD1511213895

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian at 1605 GMT on 15 November carries the "Elections '95" program, with a seven and a half minute election platform by Gennadiy Zyuganov, chairman of the Russian Communist Party, together with four representatives of his party. He begins by saying that the studio is not in a position to present all the bloc's representatives, merely those who are at the top of its list.

"Our Communist Party of the Russian Federation has been reborn. It is continuing the best traditions of Stakhanov, Izotov, Tukhamblinskiy, Zhukov, Korolev, and Kurchatov, the party of patriots that has always honestly served its fatherland, fought bravely, and had but one privilege — to sweat their guts out. This party now numbers over 500,000 people and has a clear and precise program and numerous organizations, and today enjoys broad support among the working people. In our association there are over 5,000 people who work in factories and farms, over 60 managers, businessmen, entrepreneurs, and production organizers. There is also a group of talented lawyers whose textbooks are used in many higher educational establishments. Among our team are representatives of all the regions, which testifies to the unity and friendship of our country."

He goes on to introduce the leaders of the association — Svetlana Goryacheva, who represents the interests of the women of Russia; Aman Tuleyev, a former head of one of the country's railways, now head of a legislative assembly and a "champion of justice and honor"; Svetlana Savitskaya, former cosmonaut and teacher; and Petr Romanov, a leading businessmen and scientist and an expert in matters of conversion.

"Our program is an extremely simple one," Zyuganov goes on. "We are in favor of everyone being able to work and live honestly, whatever their form of ownership. We are in favor of respect being shown to teachers and doctors, engineers and lawyers, and in favor of our army defending the unity of the state and being equipped with everything it needs but not fighting against its own people. We are in favor of the refugee finding his native land and his home, and of every child having a comfortable and free education and normal recreation."

"We recently gathered together and discussed a whole series of interesting programs — a program of strengthening democracy in all the regions and a program of the fight against crime, corruption, and banditry. In our list there are such top specialists in the fight against crime as Viktor Ilyukhin who has more than once introduced his programs but, unfortunately, many of his ideas have not been put into practice. I am confident that in the new composition of the State Duma we will be able to form a sound bloc of people's patriotic forces, to propose our team and our program and to implement the main slogans, which are written on the banner of patriots. On our banner is written: 'We are for peace and against civil war, we are for honest labor and against scroungers, we are for the power of the people and against the power of the mafia, we are for the honor and dignity of our great country. Our country is a long-suffering one. It has more than once beaten off all kinds of raids but now finds itself in an extremely difficult position. There are nearly 20 million unemployed in the country, 15 million half-starved people, 6 million refugees, 2 million children who should be learning but are not getting an education, and nearly 1 million waifs."

"I believe that together, by pooling the efforts of all the working people, we will be able to drag our fatherland from this grave crisis. I urge you to look closely at our lists and into our faces. We uphold the unity of our country. Our simple slogan is 'Russia, Labor, Democracy, Socialism.' Thank you."

Yavlinskiy on Necessity of Elections

LD1511164195 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 0525 GMT 15 Nov 95

[Elections feature with Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, leader of Yabloko — Yavlinskiy-Boldyrev-Lukin — Bloc, in ORT studio; from the "Elections '95" program — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Moderator] We continue our morning television political marathon. After Ivan Petrovich Rybkin, who brought his little fish [reference to glass fish produced by Rybkin as a good luck talisman] along with him, we now have Grigoriy Alekseyevich Yavlinskiy with his apple [a large apple, symbol of "Yabloko" bloc, stands on small table next to Yavlinskiy]. Good morning.

[Yavlinskiy] Good morning. First of all, I would like to answer a question which is in the mind of every citizen of our country: Why do we need these elections? Do we need them at all? What will they result in? What will change? Or will nothing change? Who stands to gain from them? I think these are the main questions.

[Moderator] Well, can you answer them now?

[Yavlinskiy] Yes, I will now try to answer them because they will explain why we are taking part in these elections. Today, our country is in a unique, unprecedented historical period. We are to elect a new president, elect a new parliament, and form a new government in the course of nine months and only thus, if it all does happen, can we start a new life without bloodshed.

These are critical events for Russia. In the final analysis, Russia today has no other way of getting out of the position in which she has found herself. This is our common task.

[Moderator] You talk about decades. [sentence as heard] Are you taking such a long-term strategic view of things?

[Yavlinskiy] I think that this relates to my country's future, and I am interested in what will happen to my motherland, what will happen to our country, not only over the next 10 years, but the next 100 years, because it affects my children — and I think I will have grandchildren, too — I think it affects all of us, and we cannot be indifferent to it. At this moment, in the situation that we are in today, these nine months may change our lives decisively if we manage to elect a new president, if we manage to elect a new parliament and form a new government.

[Moderator] Many say that they think in terms of decades, the centuries ahead, but it would probably be impossible to find a politician today who would not say that they are concerned about the fate of the country. What are you specifically concerned about?

[Yavlinskiy] Well, have you noticed what has happened in our country? The dominant relationship, the dominant event in our country today, the environment in which we all live is boorishness in politics. Lies. Look what is happening here: we went all out to fight privilege, and privilege is today 100 times greater for the very people who fought against it. We said that we needed to carry out privatization. Not only did we carry it out very unfairly — there was always that possibility — but we showed absolutely no economic sense in carrying it out. It has virtually no prospects. We are following an economic policy which ruins education, health care, and security, and thereby ruins our state. Any policy which ruins these sectors is one without a future.

[Moderator] Alright, that is how things stand; but what do you have to offer?

[Yavlinskiy] I think that I will have to answer that question bit by bit. I will have a further chance to meet our viewers, including here on your channel.

[Moderator] Of course.

[Yavlinskiy] My next meeting on your channel will take place at 1910 [1610 GMT] on the evening of 21 November, but I will not have a chance to say everything properly today in order to bear responsibility for everything I say. The fact is that, as you know yourself, these public appearances on television have been organized in such a way that our airtime has been divided into paid and free of charge, and today television is giving me airtime free of charge, these seven and a half minutes. I am grateful for this in view of the elections, but the paid airtime offered by television costs, as you know, $20,000 to $30,000 per minute. The viewers watching today should ask themselves who can afford to spend such money in order to speak to them and tell them something. It will require $250,000 to buy 10 minutes of airtime on Friday.

[Moderator] Your seven and a half minutes today are free.

[Yavlinskiy] Yes, I have seven and a half minutes free of charge, but I would like to explain that this procedure for conducting debates, this procedure for conducting discussions puts those who wish to speak to their voters in the position of having to ask someone for this money because no serious Russian politician today has that sort of money. Hence they will have to sell themselves — sell themselves to whomever gives them the money. Hence that is how they will have to work later on.

Therefore, to answer your question about positive manifestos — and we are all fed up with hearing everyone being criticized — we just need to elect a new president and form a new, proper government, and then we will mend this situation.

[Moderator] Incidentally, a few minutes ago you said that a new president may be elected, the State Duma may be elected — do you have doubts about the possibility of holding these elections?

[Yavlinskiy] I have my doubts both about the elections being held and the results being allowed to pass unchallenged. I also have my doubts about a presidential election being held in Russia. I have many doubts about that. But that changes nothing. We must move in this direction. It is the only peaceful way to correct the situation we have today.

[Moderator] One more question if I may, Georgiy Alekseyevich. Your bloc is called Yabloko but, on the surface at least, there is only Yavlinskiy. The other founders of the bloc — I mean Mr. Lukin and Mr. Boldyrev...

[Yavlinskiy, interrupting] Well, as for Yuriy Yuryevich Boldyrev, he is not taking part in these elections because he is not standing for the State Duma. He is a member of the Federation Council. As for Vladimir Petrovich [Lukin], well, if he has the slightest opportunity to speak on television, then he will speak to the voters. But the fact is that the point of the elections is not to chase after artistes, actresses, and actors. The point of the elections is to finally get honest professional people into power.

I know that many countries in the world have dishonest governments. It is a rare thing. But our country is in such a situation today that we will not be able to cope with the problems we face without an honest, professional government because most of the people in power today are not up to the task.

[Moderator] But will we be able to get all the things you have so eloquently described as a result of these elections?

[Yavlinskiy] I don't know if you [personally] will be able to get them, but if the elections are successful, if for the first time the citizens elect people they themselves can trust and we do not turn back, and if we leave the lies behind us, then, yes, we can. Russia has always done what she wanted. If you remember, they once even wrote in the newspapers that the Russians were planning to change the direction of the rivers. The whole world took fright because they knew that if the Russians really wanted to do something, they would go ahead. The main point is...

[Moderator, interrupting] To want to?

[Yavlinskiy] To want to.

Gaydar on 'Squandered' Deposits

LD1511151095 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0630 GMT 15 Nov 95

[Elections feature with Yegor Gaydar, leader of Russia's Democratic Choice-United Democrats electoral bloc; from the "Elections '95" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] I have not led a Russian Government for three years now. I do not agree with much of what has been done since then, and yet when I meet audiences, I know very well that opinion here holds me responsible for everything happening in Russia.

Well, responsibility is responsibility, and we never run away from it. Since that is the case, I would like to give my opinion on the questions that concern people most of all, which are brought up at practically every meeting. Perhaps the most common and serious question is this: How much was stolen from the people's deposits in the Russian savings bank by the reform of 1992, and when will you repay that debt to the people? How could you steal from the elderly the money they had saved for their funerals? Where did the funds in our savings books go to? After all, they were backed up materially. So where did it all go? Those are the questions.

In the autumn of 1991, an unusual situation arose. No one wanted to work with the Russian Government. Many were offered and many refused. You probably appreciate that it was only thanks to that situation that a team of young, relatively little known professionals was able to enter government. But why the refusals? The reason is quite simple. A great number of people knew that the Russian people's deposits had been squandered. The time had come to answer for it and they did not want to answer. [passage omitted: Gaydar explains that savings are protected by hard currency, precious metals, and gold, and quotes a 1991 letter from the Foreign Trade Bank to the government saying that the state's ready currency resources are completely exhausted; he says that the gold reserve was similarly used up]

To be brief, everyone knew by then that the deposits had been squandered, invested over many years in the arms race, in Afghanistan, in aid to developing countries. The Soviet Union had granted 150 billion in loans. The time had come to choose: who would open the door of the safe and show that it was bare.

But do our fathers and mothers really care whether it was the communists or the democrats who handled their savings like that? There is something more important: what do we do about this terrible misfortune? How do we compensate for these losses?

And this leads to other questions. Can the people's devalued deposits be returned? Will deposits be indexed, and when?

The state budget can be compared to the family budget. If money is taken out of the drawer, it will not appear there again until it is put back. It is possible to index the population's deposits, but on one vital condition: a growing economy and real financial resources provided by the budget.

Ludwig Erhard [West German economist 1948-63] ran into the same situation in his day. Hitler had squandered the Germans' deposits, spending them on the Second World War. Erhard came along, opened the door, and showed the Germans that there was nothing inside. Later, after creating the bases for steady market-based economic growth and a strong German mark and providing budget funds, he settled with those whom Hitler had robbed.

I am convinced that a responsible Russian Government is obliged to do the same as Erhard did. There is only one way of getting there: a growing market economy, a strong, stable national currency, a working ruble. Our chances of having all this are good today. Two years have been wasted and this has prevented this most important economic problem — the debt — from being solved. But an economic lift is possible in Russia today. Only on that basis can we solve this most critical problem, can we help our fathers and mothers, those people who are in no way to blame for their labor being squandered by the communist regime. It is for that very reason that it is so important to make the intelligent choice on 17 December 1995. [Video shows Gaydar alone, seated behind office desk, screen caption reads "15 November;" at conclusion, video shows 12-inch advertisement for Russia's Democratic Choice-United Democrats: the slogan "Make the intelligent choice: Russia's Democratic Choice-United Democrats" is imposed upon slow-motion film of young adults and Gaydar meeting the public]

Rutskoy Cites Book on Derzhava's Program

LD1511191595 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 0525 GMT 15 Nov 95

[Campaign speech by Aleksandr Rutskoy, leader of the Derzhava party, at the ORT studio; from the "Elections '95" program — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Good morning, dear fellow countrymen. Today here we are, all of us — some count the cost, others are happy with what happened to us. It is 10 years since we began the process of new thinking and perestroyka. Once a great power, a great people that the whole world had to reckon with, we are in a depressing, humiliating state.

Each one of us bears his particular part of the blame for what has happened to us and this includes me, too, because I do not differ from you in any way. I am a citizen, just like yourselves.

To some extent I am different because I was in politics and occupied high offices indeed. I was a people's deputy, chairman of a Supreme Soviet committee, member of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, and vice president.

You all know how my political career ended during its first stage. However, it was with sincerity, with sincerity that I was active in politics, living my life with yours. I tried to do everything possible and impossible, too, to make sure that we indeed reach the goal that is called a dignified life. It is up to you to judge how successful or otherwise I have been. However, I know that I never betrayed my people and country. I did all I could do. Many people said to me: Aleksandr Vladimirovich, after all you were a vice president and yet you could not do what you wanted to do and so on and so forth. Well, this can be said only by those people who have never in their lives opened the Constitution of the Russian Federation, where the vice president's powers and prerogatives are set out in one line: fulfills the instructions from the president. No more than that.

Well, in the capacity of one who just takes instructions, I have not managed to prevent the destruction of collective farms or state farms. I have not managed to prevent the voucher-based privatization of land. I have not managed to bring the war in Ossetia to a halt. I have not managed to bring the war in the Dniester region, a role now arrogated to himself by another general, more popular now than Rutskoy, because he is probably among the first three leading politicians in Russia. It has not been possible to do anything.

When the fate of the soviets and of the people's power was being decided I was in the House of Soviets along with the patriots and people's Deputies of the Russian Federation up to the last moment, defending Soviet power. Some say it was bad but that is a completely separate matter, whether it was bad or good. It is a topic for an altogether different conversation. Not everyone was able to make a stand against arbitrary rule, against outrages against the constitution.

Even though we all promised — and I often took trips to the regions of the Russian Federation — we all promised to give our support during difficult or complex times, well, you do know how it all ended. I do not mean to imply that I nurse some sort of grievance against you, for God's sake do not think that. I say this with sincerity and so that you do understand why we have found ourselves in such a humiliating position.

At present, when the country is embarking on the last leg of the elections to the new parliament, the State Duma, each of you should ponder this: to whom you entrust your fate. You can criticize your opponents — currently the Central Electoral Commission has registered 41 organizations and they say that it is still no nearer the end and that registration will continue. I see it as a deliberate action to practically wreck the elections. Votes are dissipated among so many election blocs and an ineffective parliament will be the result — this is the reason behind it.

You are aware of the treatment meted out to our movement. We had to fight for our legitimate right to take part in these elections through the courts. I am inconvenient to those who call themselves democrats. I am also inconvenient to those who call themselves communists. I am inconvenient to them. Why? Because they are very well aware that if Rutskoy joins the Duma, if his team comes along with Rutskoy and if we constitute parliamentary majority, all this idle chat and demagogy in parliament will be stopped. We will set about our work, specific work to rectify the situation that has taken shape.

Take the election programs from October-December 1993, elections to the State Duma, following the dispersal of the country's parliament at the point of the gun. Take these election programs and have a read, attentively, with a pencil in hand, try to find out whether a single promise of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation has been fulfilled, headed by its leader Zyuganov. Take the program of Women of Russia — has a single promise been kept? Take the programs of the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia], of the PRES [Party of Russian Unity and Accord], of the Yabloko bloc, or Russia's Choice, try to find a single promise of theirs fulfilled, for they were generously handing them out.

So, I ask you for one thing: have a good think. To whom would you entrust your fate? What prospects await you? Do you want to continue to live like you do now? The only thing I can say is this: everything I propose is here, in my book. There are economic issues here, and foreign policy issues and issues of the structure of the state and the development of this structure and issues connected with resolving the problems of agriculture, everything is there. all this has been thought out in-depth and not only thought out, but also calculated.

Practically the whole of our program has been set out in this book. You can see how thick it is. Not all of it is theses, for it contains tables and calculations which prove and show that we are capable of resolving these issues over definite periods of time, with tangible costs, using specific methods at certain times in certain ways. I can give an answer how, when and in what order our society's problems will be resolved and what it will take to resolve them. I can give an answer as to the consequent benefits for each and everyone, the family and society at large.

Help! Give your help and support and I give you my word that everything Rutskoy promises you today will be fulfilled. Fulfilled because I have never broken my promises to people. And it is possible to implement the ideas which are close to the hearts and souls of each inhabitant of Russia.

Rybkin Urges Support for Producers

LD1511214795 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 0525 GMT 15 Nov 95

[Elections feature with Russian State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin at ORT studio; from the "Elections '95" program — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Moderator] The lot fell upon State Duma Chairman Ivan Petrovich Rybkin to be the first guest in our studio. [passage omitted]

[Rybkin] What is the bloc's main concern? Why are we putting our list forward to the viewers and the Russians for them to make up their minds? We are doing this because reforms are progressing with difficulty. The current state of the economy can be described as depressive stabilization. So we have not made great headway, although we can speak of changes for the better, I believe.

We are proposing simple and clear things. Until our own economy starts working we will not achieve success in other spheres, such as budget-based ones and others like support for invalids and pensioners. This is plainly obvious. We must therefore, support our domestic producers in all forms of economy, be it private, state-owned, or intermediary forms.

[Moderator] People say that there are no real producers left in this country. Who are we going to support?

[Rybkin] I will not agree. There has been a great slump in the economy, and over the last few years it has reached 50 percent of what Russia used to have. The most depressing fact is that the slump in state-of-the-art production is twice as great as the general slump. We have also indicated straightforwardly where the funds could come from. You have prompted me to touch on this subject, and I will say the following. Three years ago the United States declared with pride that it had managed to pool private corporations into a single power grid. At the same time, we have been destroying the country's single power grid literally with a manic zeal for three years. It should be restored. Why am I saying this as if it is a key link? Because fuel and power account for 70 percent of the costs of the entire range of products and goods today. It is a crazy figure! State restrictions should be applied here and tariffs should be made more equal.

In the first months after we have been elected we must amend the situation in another sphere, too. Today crude oil, unprocessed timber, and many other raw materials are flowing to the West in abundance, literally, while 28 oil refineries — there are only 28 refineries in Russia — are working at 25-31 percent of their capacity. It is absolutely obvious that oil must go through our refineries, because the directors of refineries are maintaining the work force and equipment, and all this becomes a major burden on the production costs. As a result, the gasoline coming out of this pipe, as well as oils and other petrochemicals are so precious that they should be poured into champagne glasses instead of car fuel tanks. This should be done immediately, and we will change the situation so that it becomes advantageous not for those people who, bluntly speaking, have gone berserk over super-profits — because they are profiting by the situation — but for the entire society. [passage omitted]

We will not allow a situation whereby those who are choking on wealth are 30-times better off than those who live in poverty. We promise to do this without fail and without delay, providing, of course, that other sensible forces will be supported along with us.

The same applies to all other changes. Take the military-defense complex. It must be guaranteed that our defense is sufficient, reasonably sufficient. What mentality are we relying on? Sometimes people with the mentality of a small child are being appointed to top posts in this country. There have been great changes in the neighboring countries, but one can come across such people there too. Therefore, the sufficiency of defense must be guaranteed. The army should have the minimum numerical strength but be defense-capable and well and professionally trained.

We are also talking about the problems of the agro-industrial complex. Do not say: Subsidies for agro-industrial complex. This flow of investment should be divided between the manufacturers in the national agriculture and the support for elderly people in rural areas, for preserving and protecting the roots of the nation. People who are used to be in charge of other people's lives in rural areas, including a grey-haired elder and a newly-born baby, should not be allowed to be in power. The state should undertake responsibility for this and the manufacturers should support it.

In addition, we need the highest technology to be able to process properly round timber, crude oil, gas, and many other things so that we do not become a raw-material appendix of somebody else.

This is all I can say in this pleasant conversation with you, Pavel Vladimirovich; this is our approach in brief, in these few minutes made available to us by the draw.

[Moderator] Thank you. Good day!

Borovoy on Party's Quest for Stability

LD1611010695 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0630 GMT 15 Nov 95

[Elections feature with Konstantin Borovoy, leader of the Economic Freedom Party; from the "Elections '95" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] When we thought about how to set out all we want to say, we suddenly understood that everything has already been said. It has been said by you, in a form that is currently most widespread in our country, the ditty. We also understood that no slogans are necessary. Ditties are the best slogans, the best illustration of what we want to say.

We went on an expedition and we collected these ditties. Our apologies go to the actors, for we did have to change some words. You know these words yourselves. If we had not changed them, we would not have been able to show them on TV.

It seems to me that these ditties are the best illustration of what we wish to say to you today. [passage omitted: a limerick follows about First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays and Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray]

I would like to talk about stability today and how we, the Economic Freedom Party, understand the notion "stability." In countries, like ours, with normal democracies all power branches change. From now on every four years we will be electing a new Duma so that deputies do not become rooted to their seats and do not get bogged down in corruption and criminal connections. Every four years we will be electing a new president. He will have to serve the people honestly and not only deal with his personal matters; otherwise, he will not be re-elected.

But there is one power branch that is of great concern to us: the executive power. According to the current executive power, the fact that they have been in power for a long time means stability. In those distant countries with similar stability the prime minister steals gas and seizes his country's enormous wealth. In those distant countries the chairman of the upper parliament chamber trades in arms and makes money on this. And the chairman of the lower parliament chamber trades in credits for agriculture and also makes money instead of creating new laws. In those distant countries the presidential aide for sport, together with bandits, receives preferential licences and trades in vodka and cigarettes. This is what happens when stability is wrongly understood.

The Economic Freedom Party advocates a different stability, a stability whereby the executive power, prime minister, civil servants and ministers change and a tiny spot on their affairs makes them resign.

On 17 December you will vote, you can vote, for our stability, the stability of the Economic Freedom Party and then the current dishonest power will go and everything will be OK.

In the distant past, after a fire in the Kremlin during the troubled times some well-wishers wanted to speed up the cooling of the Tsar Bell and we know what happened: it just burst, a piece fell off, and this monument is still in the Kremlin now as a permanent reminder to those who want to speed up the solution of all the problems.

We, the Economic Freedom Party, are in favor of resolving all our problems as soon as possible but not by an easy solution of dividing and distributing everything. Because in this case all of us will be poor again. We want our state to be cheap so that we, the citizens of the country, do not pay high taxes. We want low taxes and then a lot of cheap sausages will be available not only behind the Kremlin walls, at the Kremlin warehouses, but in our fridges.

A strong state, a great power — these words mean a lot to us — will be possible only when all of us become strong, rich, happy, and free and not only our leaders who still want to command, to supervise us and to give us orders about what we should and should not do, and where we should go. As soon as we have a state that is working for us and not a state that is treating us as its slaves, everything will be OK then.

When we were recording our clips, we were approached by lots of people who asked how to vote for the Economic Freedom Party. For this you need to find the Economic Freedom Party under the number 39 in the list of political parties. You tick off a square box near the party's name and then all will be OK.

RTV Disputes Legitimacy of LDPR Advertisement

LD1511144495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1404 GMT 15 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 15 Nov — The heads of the Russian Television Network [Moscow RTV] have suggested that the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] should withdraw its images of Peter the Great, Field Marshal Kutuzov, and Academician Sakharov from its political advertisement, Albert Prikhodko, editor-in-chief of the Russian Television Network and head of the Elections-95 television headquarters, told the ITAR-TASS correspondent today. He explained that Russian Television has referred the matter to the Judicial Chamber for information Disputes [sudebnaya palata po informatsionnym sporam], which has deemed the film unethical and improper.

Oleg Poptsov, chairman of the VGTRK [All-Russia State Radio and Television Company], also stressed that election canvassing should not exceed the bounds of propriety. Election calls from famous historical figures and literary characters, he said, only show that "the imagination is without limits." And in actual fact, it is hard to imagine that the Russian autocrat or great military leader would be so well informed about the activities of the LDPR that they would canvas in its favor.

Borovoy Threatened With Deregistration for Commercials

LD1511192395 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1500 GMT 15 Nov 95

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Konstantin Borovoy's television film which was shown this morning was the reason for the session of the experts of the judicial chamber for information disputes. The lawyers saw several violations of the political code of conduct in it.

[Begin recording by A. Vengerov, chairman of the judicial chamber for information disputes, identified by caption] Canvassing in the form of disseminating reports and material which are untrue and which besmirch the honor and dignity and business reputations of representatives of other electoral associations and electoral blocs standing for election as deputies cannot be allowed. And this principle is directly contravened in these verses. There have been so many calls for election canvassing to be conducted in a civilized fashion, for certain codes of conduct to be observed. This has not happened. From the first day there have been the grossest of violations of the legislation. And I would like to issue this warning, to other associations and organizations as well if they take this path, that the penalties may be quite strict and severe. In particular, it is stipulated that if election canvassing is carried out in this way, with opponents being insulted, their surnames being distorted and plays being made on them for some kind of political advantage, this is quite inappropriate. If this happens, then there may be criminal, administrative or other types of penalties. What other kind of penalties can there be? If this does not stop, if it happens, their registration may be withdrawn. [end recording]

ORT Drops Debates Due To Lack of Interest

LD1411155295 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1500 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The management of Russian Public TV (ORT) issued a statement today which says radio and TV coverage of the election campaign begins on 15 November. ORT had proposed campaign debates and roundtables to amplify the views of the electoral associations and blocs taking part in the elections for the voter.

Unfortunately, however, the majority of the electoral associations and blocs have turned down the offer. Consequently, starting tomorrow you will see traditional election broadcasts. Should participants request debates during the campaign, the ORT management stands ready to assist.

ORT Chief Outlines Preelection Campaign Rules

OW1511112295 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel and Orbita Networks in Russian 1900 GMT 9 Nov 95

[Vladimir Polozhentsev video report; from the "Chronicle of the Day" newscast of the "TeleUtro" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] Sergey Blagovolin, ORT [Russian Public Television] general director, described today at a news conference the procedure for covering the preelection campaign on the First Television Channel.

[Begin video report] [Polozhentsev] Taking into consideration the experience of previous elections and heeding the interests of millions of Russian voters, Russian Public Television has declared its intention to organize its coverage of the preelection campaign on the First Television Channel in the form television debates and round tables. As a matter of fact, this kind of presentation is called for in the Central Electoral Commission instructions, the statement says. [video shows Blagovolin addressing news conference, activities in a television studio, journalist reading ORT release]

Sergey Blagovolin emphasized today that this will permit ORT to protect viewers from unnecessary demagoguery and populism during the television election campaign. Experience has shown that many future politicians, after all, do not bother to give any explanations. [video shows Blagovolin speaking at conference]

[Blagovolin] In our opinion the election campaign should be a contest of intellects, of minds, and experience; an analysis of mistakes and an analysis of what is right and what is wrong.

[Polozhentsev] This ORT concept resulted in a stormy reaction among parties, associations, and blocs. Some feel that in this way the ORT leadership is attempting to push the undesirable from the screen. [video shows LDPR leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy addressing an unidentified gathering] However, this is not so, said Sergey Blagovolin. Airtime will be provided to all who have a right to it according to the law.

[Blagovolin] It is moving that the same views are being expressed almost in chorus by both the left and the right, that we have instigated this in the interests of someone. It is easy to presume that apparently they have the NDR [Russia is Our Home] in mind, but in fact the NDR has not expressed any delight over our proposal.

[Polozhentsev] Every party will be given an opportunity to present itself during a one hour period — 30 minutes in the morning and 30 minutes in the evening. In addition, six minutes of paid television advertising will be allowed.

[Blagovolin] As far as the possible granting of paid time, which in sum total should not exceed the time which is being presented in this way, we will not grant it. [video shows meetings, street activities of various political groups]

[Polozhentsev] Airtime will be allocated with the help of a draw. Besides the possibility that one bloc or party will get airtime only in the morning while others get airtime only in the evening is absolutely excluded. A draw will also determine which presenter will appear with which speaker. As a matter of fact, article 216 of the Central Electoral Commission instruction clearly directs electoral associations and blocs to coordinate preelection agitation forms with the television and radio company.

Sergey Blagovolin emphasized that ORT employees are law-abiding people and that if the organs of state power, the Central Electoral Commission, or the Judicial Chamber for Information Disputes decide that the preelection campaign should be organized in some different way, the ORT will abide by all their instructions. These measures, Blagovolin said, will permit a tangible, strong power to be elected. We want Russia to be a great country, populated by well-fed and content people who are protected by the law.

Electoral Commission Approves Ballot Form

LD1611002495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1756 GMT 15 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Belskiy]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Moscow, 15 Nov — The Russian Central Electoral Commission [TsIK] today approved the form of the ballot papers. They will open with a foreword that explains how Russian citizens are to fill them in. Next comes the list of election blocs and associations with the names of the first three candidates on the federal list, as well as the threesome who head a bloc's regional list in a particular constituent part of Russia. The vote formula "against all federal lists" concludes a ballot paper.

So far, on the list are 43 blocs and associations that have already secured the right to contest the seats in a new State Duma in an all-federation constituency. In compliance with the decision of the Russian Supreme Court, the TsIK today registered the federal lists of the 43d applicant, the Union of Housing Maintenance and Utility Workers election association. On 16 November the court will rule on the lawsuit by the Zemstvo Assembly election bloc refused registration by the TsIK on 10 November.

It was also made known today that three other election blocs and associations have lodged complaints with the Supreme Court about the TsIK's refusal of registration. They are Our Future, the Union of Muslims, and the Union of Patriots, the consideration of whose cases has been arranged for 17 November. It was because of this that the TsIK today deemed impossible the final approval of the text of the ballot papers to be handed on 17 December to the electorate in four constituent parts of Russia, namely: Moscow, St. Petersburg, Moscow Region, and Leningrad Region. Under the law, the TsIK is to finally approve the text of the ballot papers no later than 18 November. [passage omitted]

Federation Council Sets Date for Presidential Election

LD1511153695 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1514 GMT 15 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 15 Nov — The Federation Council has fixed 16 June 1996 as the date for the elections of the President of the Russian Federation. This decision was adopted unanimously by deputies today.

Forecasts & Commentary

Daily Derides Instructions on Preelection TV Coverage

MM1511142795 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Nov 95 pp 1, 2

[Article by Irina Petrovskaya, critic: "The TV Dictatorship of Candidates Awaits Us. The Official Election Campaign Begins on TV Tomorrow, and 'Talking Heads' Will Fill the Screen"]

[FBIS Translated Text] And so, the waiting is over: The election marathon will commence on the main television channels 15 November, unless anything radical happens in the next 24 hours. In the already published TV schedule it looks like this:

On ORT [Russian Public Television] — half-hour programs entitled "Elections 95" and "Debates" at 0825 and 1905 hours.

On the "Rossiya" channel — half-hour programs entitled "Elections 95" and "State Duma" at 0700, 0930, 1840, and 2355 hours.

On the St. Petersburg-Fifth Channel — hour-long programs at 2100 hours.

Plus — political advertising trailers (up to six minutes per day). Plus — election broadcasts on the commercial channels, whose activity is not regulated by the Central Electoral Commission [TsIK] instruction — and this, strictly speaking, is the only difference between the current election campaign and the last.

Two years ago the independent companies were left overboard, so to speak: Independent Television had only just appeared on the St. Petersburg channel, and carried only news programs. TV 6 did not have its own output at all. Now they have not only become firmly established and earned influence and prestige, but have also expanded their audience and have actually almost caught up with the federal channels in terms of viewing figures.

Unlike the state companies, the nonstate companies are masters on their own patch. They have been permitted to establish their own rules of the game on the airwaves, within the framework of existing laws. And they will do this while deriving the maximum commercial and political profit from the situation.

Companies classed as all-Russia companies under the president's edict are in a quite different position. Let us recall that there are three such companies — Russian Public Television, the All-Russia State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company, and the "St. Petersburg — Fifth Channel" company. The TsIK instruction establishes the forms of election agitation and the amount of free air time which they grant every working day to electoral associations and blocs in the period 15 November through 15 December, the rules for the conduct of presenters during election programs, and much else — including the punitive sanctions if they violate the given instruction.

The instruction's main flaw, in the opinion of the majority of television leaders and employees, is that it primarily protects the interests of the candidates themselves, and certainly not those of the voters. Point 2.16 says: "The electoral association, the electoral bloc, or the candidate deputy in accordance with the form of election agitation agreed with the television or radio company independently determines the contents of the information within the free air time granted and also the composition of their representatives (participants)." Thus the candidates themselves choose the form of election agitation — a speech, interview, press conference, debate, or a roundtable. This means that, as was the case two years ago, the air waves will be filled with "talking heads," for it is already reliably known today that the majority of candidates have chosen the only form of election agitation acceptable to them — a speech to camera.

Anticipating this, Russian Public Television last week held a press conference at which it announced its intention to organize election campaign coverage in the form of television debates and roundtables, so that voters can hear not simply the candidates' policy statements and appeals, but also compare their positions and the logic and contents of their political programs. Russian Public Television based its decision on the fact that, in principle, the TsIK instruction does not limit election agitation just to monologue speeches, but, on the contrary, directs the electoral associations and blocs to agree the forms of agitation with the television companies. Moreover, debates and roundtables are the optimum form of election programs, given the obvious time shortage, seeing that there are 42 candidates and only 23 hours of free agitation allocated to them. Each candidate must speak four times — twice in the first half of the election campaign (morning and evening), and twice in the second half. Realistically, each candidate will get 7 minutes each per time. But debates and roundtables enable the representatives of two or more candidates to be combined, and produce a public exchange of opinions and questions.

However, Mr. Blagovolin, ORT's general director, was already aware while addressing the press conference that in all probability there will be no debates. The majority of candidates at once expressed their disagreement with the TV company. However, today, one day before the election marathon begins, we still do not know exactly what will happen. By law the candidates have the right to appeal to the Supreme Court, which would oblige ORT to follow the Law on Elections and the TsIK instruction to the letter. So far there have apparently been no appeals to the court. In which connection the ORT leadership and the presenters lined up to participate in the debates (Pavel Kasparov, Dmitriy Kiselev, Georgiy Kuznetsov, Aleksandr Lyubimov, and Andrey Razbash) remain in ignorance and bewilderment. Though, to the honor of ORT, the company intends to defend its stance to the last.

Russian Television [RTV] (the Second Channel) has obeyed the instruction in full, having placed both free and paid time entirely at the disposal of the candidate deputies. Sergey Torchinskiy, leader of the "Respublika" Television Production Association and one of the six journalists designated by the RTV leadership to participate in election programs, has described RTV's position as pitiful: "We cannot fulfill our main task — to defend the viewer from lies, populism, demagogy, and filth. We cannot do this **by law**. A foolish instruction. They thought only of themselves. The voter counts for naught, and journalists too. All this will end badly. The only thing which we have managed to do is to appeal to our viewers to send in questions for the candidates. So that we then have the opportunity to ask them live on television, and in the event that the candidate refuses to answer, we can say: There you are, see what sort of man this is. He does not wish, or is not able, to answer the question which concerns you, dear viewers."

Some staff on both RTV and ORT proposed to their leaders that they should offer expert analysis after the election programs. This proposal was not carried, for the prosaic reason that the TV companies have virtually no analysts capable of doing this competently and accessibly. Thus the voter-viewer is doomed to spend the long autumn and winter nights one on one with the candidates to power.

True, ORT, putting its viewers' interests first, has, unlike RTV, refused to grant additional paid time for election agitation. But, on the other hand, it has kept on the air the utterly vile political program "Dikoye Pole" ["Wild Frontier"]. It will continue to go out on Fridays, right next to an election program. And straight after "Dikoye Pole" follows "Pole Chudes" ["Wheel of Fortune"]. These two programs share one thing in common: Their authors Aleksandr Nevzorov and Leonid Yakubovich are candidate deputies. It turns out that the law as it now stands forbids candidates from presenting television news programs and directly participating in election coverage. But they are perfectly free to appear in other programs. At the discretion of the company. ORT for some reason does not see anything unnatural about this, although it is arrant nonsense as far as world election practice is concern, in which the principle of equality operates, that is to say, an identical attitude is shown to all registered candidates for the same post. For example, when Ronald Reagan ran for the post of governor of California, and later for the post of U.S. President, the showing of old films in which he featured automatically caused his opponents to be granted the same time.

Another striking circumstance: Declaring its responsibility to viewers and its wish to promote the development of the democratic process, ORT last Sunday granted air time to the communist Vladimir Semago. The program "Chelovek pri dele" ["Man At Work"] (as the makers of "Vzglyad" have cunningly recast "Chelovek nedeli" ["Man of the Week"]) chose as its hero this unique communist entrepreneur with a human face. Only one conclusion could be drawn from this presentation, despite the faint sarcasm of the presenters: Look, dear viewers, the devil is not so black as he is painted. Two questions: What is this — unlimited pluralism, to be classed as stupid, getting on for dangerous? Or sheer lack of discrimination: Anyone who pays has a green light onto nationwide television?

It is terrible to make forecasts, but, it would appear, history has every chance of repeating itself. They say television reflects the society which produces it. But, unfortunately, what is happening with society and the country increasingly depends on television. And our television, despite individual attempts to improve it, is still a wild field [the Russian "pole" in the title of both programs mentioned above means literally "field"] of fortune. On this field grows what society, when it has come to its senses, will later reap, to its sorrow.

Incidentally, it is said that both all-Russia companies are preparing a Political New Year's Eve Party. Well, it does not matter what they call it.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 16 Nov

LD1611075595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0732 GMT 16 Nov 95

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 16 (Itar-Tass) — IZVESTIYA on the election campaign in Russia.

The election campaign in Russia is gathering momentum: candidates running for the State Duma, the Lower House of the Russian parliament, have made their first appearences with the media.

The newspaper emphasises that the electioneering remarks "have revealed a deficit of new persons and fresh ideas". The newspaper describes the candidates' remarks as telepathy sessions which, however, are dangerous to politicians. But then this is, in point of fact, "our first experience in playing a democratic game with the electorate", the newspaper observes.

IZVESTIYA on current international conference in Moscow under the auspices of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

While WHO believes that the consumption of eight litres of alcohol is the boundary beyond which the individual degrades completely both physically and mentally, the average annual per capita consumption of alcohol in Russia is now 14 litres, or approximately 160-180 bottles of vodka, writes the newspaper's correspondent Svetlana Tutorskaya in an item headlined "It is alcohol that will kill us, not war".

Despite the fact that the strongly criticised anti-alcohol campaign in the middle of the 1980s, which was on the whole a heavy-handed one, demographers have estimated that the compaign saved the lives of more than one million people over the years of the anti-alcohol drive.

The newspaper concludes that all these facts are unlikely to prompt the authorities to ponder and work out a new programme to limit the consumption of alcoholic drinks by Russian citizens.

TRUD on the alcohol-related policy of Russia.

Russia's alcohol-related policy resembles a tipsy person unsteadly on his legs. The temperance campaign was launched with good intentions but the goal was a utopic one. As a result, the people did not cease drinking but revenue to the Treasury dwindled. But the question is where is the money spent by people on drinking? Criminology experts maintain that it was precisely the money spent on drinking that formed the initial capital for the "new Russians", since the sale of hard drinks went into the underground at that time.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI on the "everyday alcoholic realities of the Duma".

It turns out that to a certain proportion of House Members, the Duma has become a kind of place where they may have a good sleep after "drinking too much". It has also become almost habitual for police to detain the people's representatives in a state of intoxication "which is an affront to human dignity," the newspaper writes.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries an account of a conference which summed up the results of the educational and training year in the army.

Speaking at the conference, Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said the Russian Armed Forces, which are the main instrument for the defence of the country and its interests, are in need of support. "It is from these positions that we must estimate the state of the armed forces and draw up plans for the future," he said.

IZVESTIYA on a reorganisation of the Presidential administration.

Chief of the Presidential Staff Sergey Filatov, in an interview with the newspaper, reveals the essense of yet another reorganisation of the system headed by him. He declined to comment on rumours about his own resignation, saying that he "has got tired of such a talk".

Nevertheless, in the opinion of the newspaper's correspondent V. Vyzhutovich, there is rather strong ground for speculations on the subject. An administration reform, the journalist observes, is probably connected with Boris Yeltsin's intention to run for the presidency in 1996, since Yeltsin would need not just reliable team but a superreliable one to back him in his bid for another Presidential term.

Grachev: Russia To Seek Eastern Partners if NATO Expands

LD1511210995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2048 GMT 15 Nov 95

[By Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 15 (Itar-Tass) — Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said recent changes in the world have failed to create a new effective world order and have only caused new problems.

"The changes that have occurred in the world have not led to a harmonious and fair world order. A new era has generated new security challenges," Grachev said at a press conference in Moscow on Wednesday.

He stressed that all this has "necessitated the creation of regional security systems."

Speaking about peacekeeping activities, Grachev said that "we are concerned about situations where some international or regional military-political organisations try to assume U.N. peacekeeping functions."

He cited the situation in the Balkans as an example. The minister did not rule out the possibility that in the future NATO could play a peacekeeping role in Europe. However, this could be possible only after NATO has been sufficiently reorganised to fit into a new European security architecture, he added.

"Our principled approach is that any peacekeeping operations should be carried out only under the U.N. Security Council's mandate and political guidance and control," Grachev said.

He pointed out that "the course towards NATO's enlargement leads Europe away from its chief task, which is the creation of an absolutely new system of collective security free of any blocs, and lays the foundation for future dangerous crises."

The minister believes that a real reorganisation of NATO should involve not the expansion of its zone of influence, but its transformation into one of the instruments of a European collective security system.

"The accession of Central and East European countries to NATO would create a totally new situation on the continent which will considerably affect political, military and economic interests of Russia, and will require adequate steps to protect them," Grachev said.

He assured journalists that Russia can take adequate measures "if NATO expands eastward." "We will form a defence bloc primarily with those former Warsaw Treaty member-countries which would wish so and CIS states," he added.

Grachev also made it clear that Russia will seek partners in the East (in Asia), "where we can find allies and fairly strong ones."

The minister did not rule out the possibility that Russia may refuse to ratify the START II treaty and "put its strategic nuclear forces on a different status." At the same time, he stressed that he does not favour such scenario.

Grachev: Moscow 'Not Ready' To Comply With CFE

LD1511171195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1629 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 15 (Interfax) — Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev speaking on Wednesday said Moscow was not ready to comply with the Conventional Forces in Europe agreement, CFE, in full.

He said if it did, Russia's security system would suffer, particularly on its southern and northern flanks.

Grachev said Moscow's initiatives were being supported by leading Western countries including the United States, which is ready to agree to Krasnodar and Stavropol territories, Adygeya autonomy and Volgograd region being withdrawn from the southern flank limitation zone.

Nor can Russia comply with the CFE deal for technical reasons because of shortage of finances for the purpose, the minister said.

"Each agreement must be corrected as a new situation arises," he said.

Zhurbenko: Russia 'To Fulfil' Treaty

LD1511135495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1328 GMT 15 Nov 95

[By Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 15 (Itar-Tass) — Russia intends to fulfil the Conventional Forces in Europe treaty (CFE) signed in 1990, by the fixed deadline. Conventional arsenals will have been reduced to amounts stipulated by the CFE treaty, said first deputy chief of staff of the Russian Armed Forces, colonel-general Vladimir Zhurbenko in an interview with Itar-Tass today. According to Zhurbenko, by November 17, 1995 Russia will leave 6,400 tanks, 11,480 armoured vehicles, 6,415 artillery pieces, 3,450 planes and 890 helicopters on its European territory.

Zhurbenko believes that a number of the CIS states will fail to fulfil their commitments by the fixed deadline.

It is not ruled out that they might ask to extend the deadline to fulfil the reached agreements.

Zhurbenko pointed out that Russia would insist on lengthening the terms for dismantling its armoured vehicles and armaments on the other side of the Urals beyond the CFE framework. For this end, it is necessary to determine quotas for dismantling military hardware in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Russia, where the military hardware was transferred from Russia's European territory, the general said. He admitted that Russia's commitments to dismantle military hardware on the other side of the Urals had a political character.

The general pointed out that economic problems to a considerable extent impede the fulfilment of Russia's commitments on dismantling military hardware on the other side of the Urals. According to the data at his disposal, the Russian Armed Forces have outstanding debts for public utilities worth 15 trillion roubles for the last year alone. Under these conditions, its is hard to discuss a possibility of fulfilment Russia's commitments in the Urals by the deadline set for December 31, 1995, Zhurbenko said.

Grachev: Russia 'Cannot Fulfill' START II Treaty

LD1511191795 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 15 Nov 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent A. Dubnov] Defense Minister Pavel Grachev has today summed up the organizational development of the Russian Army in 1995.

[Begin Grachev recording] The second stage of the Armed Forces' organizational development has ended in 1995. As a result, the minimum necessary groups of troops and forces for repelling a potential aggressor in all strategically important sectors have been created. [end recording]

[Dubnov] The organizational development and maintenance of the combat readiness of the Armed Forces is being carried out in the conditions of insufficient financing. This is why the Army is forced to live in debt, which currently runs to 16 trillion rubles.

Grachev expressed his concern over the NATO expansion to the East. This may lead to Russia seeking ways of creating a defense union along the lines of the Warsaw Pact. Regarding the disarmament problem, Russia is not ready to fulfill the START II purely for technical reasons.

[Begin Grachev recording] Especially now — it is November, the winter is coming. Where can we take all this equipment and weapons to? To the Volga region? There is no place. Beyond the Urals? It is too cold there. To the forests? But what will we do with the families of servicemen? What are we to do with the servicemen? Who would build cantonments for us there, who is there to help us, to do what Germany did for us when it helped us to withdraw from there speedily? If they want us to fulfill the treaty in technical terms — well, let the whole world get together to help us. We cannot fulfill this treaty simply for technical reasons. [end recording]

Peacekeepers To Stay in Balkans After Mandate Expires

LD1511171995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1629 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 15 (Interfax) — Russian Airborne Troops Commander Col. Gen. Yevgeniy Podkolzin told Interfax in Moscow Wednesday that he is confident that Russian peacekeepers in former Yugoslavia will remain in conflict zones after November 30, when their mandate expires.

Over 900 Russian peacekeepers are deployed in the Croatian region of Eastern Slavonia and 500 more are deployed in the Sarajevo area (Bosnia-Herzegovina). The mandate of both groups expires on November 30.

The fate of peacekeeping in Bosnia will be decided at the talks in Dayton, Ohio, between the leaders of Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia, sources in the Russian Foreign Ministry told Interfax.

As for the peacekeeping operation in Eastern Slavonia, its fate is unclear despite the fact that an agreement to reintegrate this Serb-populated region into Croatia has been signed, said the sources.

Peacekeepers will stay in Eastern Slavonia for at least a year but it has not been decided from what country they will be or what kind of mandate they will have, a source said. "We would like, of course, that they have the U.N. mandate," he said.

Podkolzin, for his part, said that if the mandate of Russian peacekeepers in former Yugoslavia is not extended, they will not be able to leave the Balkans at once.

It will take three to six months to plan and carry out the pullout of the peacekeepers after the mandate expires, he said.

He stressed that during this period the operation will still be financed by the United Nations.

Funds Released for Conference on Former Yugoslavia

MM1611092495 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Nov 95 p 5

[Russian Federation Government Directive No. 1376, signed by V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government, in Moscow on 9 October — from the "Documents" section]

[FBIS Translated Text] 1. The proposal of the Russian Foreign Ministry and the Russian Ministry for Affairs of Civil Defense, Emergency Situations, and Elimination of Natural Disasters coordinated with the Russian Ministry of Finance regarding the payment of the Russian Federation's mandatory contributions to the regular budget of the Mission of the International Conference on Former Yugoslavia for the first (1 December 1994 through 31 March 1995) and second (1 April 1995 through 30 September 1995) financial periods is hereby accepted.

2. The Russian Ministry for Affairs of Civil Defense, Emergency Situations, and Elimination of Natural Disasters is to pay Russian Federation mandatory contributions to the regular budget of the Mission of the International Conference on Former Yugoslavia of $210,000 during the first financial period and $208,000 during the second financial period.

In 1995 the Russian Ministry of Finance is to allocate the Russian Ministry for Affairs of Civil Defense, Emergency Situations, and Elimination of Natural Disasters $415,000 for the payment of the aforesaid contributions from federal budget funds envisaged for designated purposes.

[Signed] V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government

[Dated] Moscow, 9 October 1995

Navy Refuses To Comment on Sale of Submarine to China

LD1511205895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2008 GMT 15 Nov 95

[By Anatoly Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 15 (Itar-Tass) — The Russian Navy confirmed on Wednesday that its chief of staff Admiral Valentin Selivanov is in China as head of a Russian military delegation, but declined to comment on the sale of a Russian submarine to China.

The Navy press centre neither confirmed nor denied reports about the participation of high-ranking Russian military officials in celebrations in the Chinese city of Ningbo, Zhejiang province, (where one of the major Chinese Navy bases is located) marking the sale to the Chinese Navy of a new Russian submarine built in Nizhniy Novgorod.

The diesel submarine belongs to the Kilo class under NATO's classification and carries no missiles, Russian military experts said. The craft has a crew of 53 people and can sail continuously for 45 days. It is armed with torpedoes, some of which can be aimed at various targets with the help of a unique technique which considerably increases their effectiveness.

Experts noted that the submarine falls under the category of non-offensive weapons and therefore does not disrupt the strategic balance of forces in the Asia-Pacific region.

The submarine was handed over to China under intergovernmental agreements on military and technical cooperation between Russia and China.

Russian military specialists believe that such deals do not affect the interests of other countries of the region and allow Russian defence enterprises to keep their workers and preserve the high technological level of production.

According to foreign experts, the sale of each such craft earns the Russian military-industrial complex 200 million U.S. dollars.

However, Russian, Chinese and Korean specialists who deal with arms supplies categorically refused to talk not only about the price at which military hardware is sold, but also about any preliminary or other terms of such contracts.

According to some sources, Russia will sell China eight submarines, but it is impossible to verify this information at the moment.

Iraqi Envoy Condemns 'No-Fly' Zone Over Iraq

LD1511194895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1727 GMT 15 Nov 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 15 (Interfax) — Iraqi Ambassador in Russia Dr. Hasan Fahmi Jum'ah believes that the establishment by the United States, Britain and France of a no-fly zone over southern Iraq is "illegal and unjust."

In a letter to Interfax agency President Mikhail Komissar the ambassador characterized the no-fly zone as a "flagrant violation of the rights and the sovereignty of Iraq because it curtails the freedom of the Iraqi people as a whole and in particular of the residents of its southern territories."

The ambassador stressed that three northern provinces of Iraq that are affected by a similar restriction "have remained under the unilateral military dictate of the above mentioned countries, especially of the United States which continues to impede by force the implementation of the honest policy of achieving national unity."

The diplomat spoke in favor of abolishing the no-fly zone which described as an interference into Iraq's internal affairs.

He also called for the respect of the right of the Iraqi people to "make its own choice of a political system and of its own patriotic government."

Daily: Pentagon Doubts Tiger's Claim in Riyadh Blast

MM1511171095 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Nov 95 p 3

[Commentary by Vadim Markushin: "The Unknown 'Tigers.' Explosions in Riyadh"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The two explosions which went off one after the other at the car park near the U.S. military building in Saudi Arabia were a bolt from the blue. The area was full of people and there were over 60 casualties, including six deaths (five Americans and one Filipino). Saudi Arabia has a firm reputation as a stable kingdom and a reliable buttress for the United States in its strategy of containment of such "unpredictable" countries as Iraq and Iran. Now this incident has occurred.

There are lots of Americans here — around 37,000. Most of them, naturally, are employed turning this country's wealth — its oil, of course — to America's advantage. But quite a few of them are also working for the Pentagon — around 1,500 of them including 87 servicemen. They are helping to maintain the National Guard's combat readiness at the necessary level. That is why the initial accounts of the incident presumed the involvement of extremists who dislike the Americans' presence. This version was soon confirmed by a telephone call from an anonymous caller who claimed that the blasts were carried out by an anti-U.S. grouping, the Gulf Tigers, whose aim is the complete withdrawal of U.S. military personnel from Saudi Arabia.

Generally speaking, that might well be true. Even though no one had ever heard of the Tigers before. Or indeed of any other significant extremist organizations. The Saudi court is not particularly embarrassed about that. Despite the recent signs that the regime's stock of dollars is not endless and that economic difficulties could be a serious headache for leaders here, the opposition remains weak. Saudi Arabia has its own radicals who tend toward xenophobia and criticism of the throne. When they manifest themselves the authorities resort to arrests and torture. There is also a Shiite minority which became agitated during the revolutionary events in Iran but which is now generally peaceful despite discrimination. In short, the "dissidents" do not pose a danger, it seems. This makes the terrorist action seem all the more sensational. If this is indeed that kind of action.

Meanwhile, if one is to believe press reports from Washington carried by ITAR-TASS, even at the Pentagon there are experts who doubt the "sincerity" of the Tigers' confession. They do not rule out the likelihood that the explosions were caused by a gas leak.

But that is mere supposition. The Riyadh authorities and the U.S. Administration would prefer less doubt and more vigorous actions to catch the terrorists and prevent new explosions.

Federation Council Ratifies Agreement With Moldova

LD1611093695 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1553 GMT 15 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 15 Nov — The Federation Council today ratified the agreement between the Russian and Moldovan governments on guarantees of citizens' rights in the sphere of pensions. Representatives of the Federation Council committees for CIS affairs and social policy noted that this agreement has been fully based on the principles contained in the multilateral Agreement on cooperation between the states of the Commonwealth. A multilateral agreement aimed at promoting guarantees of the rights of citizens to a pension in the event of a pensioner being resettled within the confines of the CIS states was signed in Moscow back in 1992. When a pension is allocated a citizen's work record on the territory of the former USSR is taken into account. The agreement between Russia and Moldova was ratified by the Moldovan parliament in May 1995.

Paris Club To Reschedule Debt Only With IMF Loans

LD1611093295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2139 GMT 15 Nov 95

[By Igor Shchegolev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PARIS, November 16 (Itar-Tass) — The Paris Club of major creditor nations will not further reschedule Russia's debt unless the International Monetary Fund (IMF) extends its loans to Moscow, a Russian high-ranking official said.

Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Oleg Davydov told Itar-Tass on Wednesday [15 November] after his talks with the Paris Club members that they agreed in principle to make changes in the debt payment scheme. In addition an IMF official, who also attended the talks, supported a "global rescheduling" of Russia's debt.

This would make it easier for Russia to act on the world financial markets and will attract foreign investments to fund its structural reform.

Davydov said the parties agreed to sign a "global rescheduling" agreement before June 1996. Its technical aspects are expected to be worked out in December 1995.

The vice-premier confirmed that Russia's foreign debt is about 130 billion U.S. dollars, of which about 38 billion U.S. dollars are owed to the Paris Club and 28 billion U.S. dollars to the London Club.

He said Russia is owed about 50 billion U.S. dollars.

Davydov stressed that the IMF's support is very important for the rescheduling of the debt. Until recently Russia's creditors did not "trust" Moscow "because we were not stable enough in our reform efforts and they gave us debt deferments for each year." But now that Russia strictly fulfills its obligations the IMF said it would provide support if the Paris Club agrees to a long-term rescheduling of the debt.

By allowing Russia to attend sessions dealing with the debts of other countries starting next year, the Paris Club has recognised it as a major creditor whose opinion has to be reckoned with, he said.

At first Russia's participation in such sessions will be purely technical, but eventually it will give it an opportunity to seek full membership.

From Paris, Davydov flew to Frankfurt-am-Main for talks with the London Club which comprises 600 private banks.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Not To Hold Any Working Meetings

LD1611072995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0644 GMT 16 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 16 Nov — Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who is undergoing a course of treatment at the Central Clinical Hospital, does not plan to hold any working meetings today but will work with documents, Sergey Medvedev, head of state's press secretary, reported to ITAR-TASS.

In the morning presidential first aide Viktor Ilyushin will visit him with the working report, which has become traditional, and inform Boris Yeltsin about current affairs.

Yeltsin Criticizes Duma's Foreign Trade Bill

LD1611003495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1531 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 15 Nov — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has sent a message to State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin, setting out his conclusions on the draft federal law "On defending the economic interests of the Russian Federation in foreign trade," which was passed at its first reading by the State Duma on 27 October 1995. This is stated in a presidential press service report, giving the text of the message, which reached ITAR-TASS today.

The message notes that a large number of the provisions of the bill under consideration contain norms that change or add to the corresponding provisions in the Russian Federation law "On the customs tariff" and the Russian Federation law "On the state regulation of foreign trade." In practice amending the relevant legislative acts takes a long time. Therefore all the matters raised in this bill, the message says, should be formulated as draft laws making partial amendments and additions to the existing legislative acts regulating the relevant activities.

Yeltsin Motives in Central Bank Leadership Viewed

MM1711110395 Moscow FINANSOVYYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Nov 95 p 3

[Commentary by Ivan Zhagel: "Aleksandr Khandruyev Promises To Protect the Financial System Against Upheavals"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last Friday's [10 November] first public statement to journalists by Acting Chairman of the Russian Central Bank Aleksandr Khandruyev did not bring any surprises. The country's new chief banker said that the basic thrust of the monetary and credit policy pursued in the country recently will be maintained.

He said literally the following: "There will be no revolutionary changes" and "the Russian Bank's policy is determined both by our country's commitments to international financial organizations and by the experience we have gained in the last two years" ("these have been difficult times and we have learned a great deal"). Moreover, he pointed out that the Central Bank's policy has "evolved the hard way," that it is "the result of collective efforts," and that cadre changes in the bank's leadership play no role.

This last remark about the insignificance of the role played by the new, albeit acting chairman of the Central Bank can be seen as A. Khandruyev's most unfortunate observation. But it is hard to disagree with him when he says that the country's monetary and credit policy does now largely depend on agreements with the IMF and other international organizations and that the Central Bank has recently gained invaluable experience which, in many respects, determines decisions in the banking sphere.

However, there were also two other reasons why A. Khandruyev felt obliged to state his commitment to the previous policy. First, when the president removed Tatyana Paramonova from office, he nevertheless made it clear that he approved of her actions as chairman of the Central Bank, so it would have been rather rash to talk about the need for fundamental change in this situation. Second, it would have been particularly inadvisable for someone with the word "acting" in front of his title. So it would be naive to count on any revolutionary statements from A. Khandruyev in the first days of his taking up the top post in the Central Bank.

Consequently, the most interesting thing about his first, widely broadcast speech was not so much his assurances of loyalty to the previous policy as the details of his unexpected appointment to one of the most responsible posts in the country. "I did not speak to the president, not even on the telephone," A. Khandruyev said. "I just had a 10-minute meeting with Viktor Chernomyrdin, who showed me the edict on my appointment, congratulated me, and wished me success in my work."

All these apparently minor details speak volumes. First of all, they indicate that A. Khandruyev's appointment is indeed regarded by the president as temporary. Admittedly, it is worth pointing out that anything can happen at this complex time and that a temporary appointee may hold onto his position longer than those in more permanent posts. However, if the president had intended to back him as the country's new chief banker, he would definitely have got to know him better and sounded him out.

We can conclude from this that T. Paramonova's hasty replacement by A. Khandruyev was simply a tactical maneuver. Many specialists agree that the president only made this move because he wanted to satisfy the requirements of the law on the Russian Central Bank, so as not to give the opposition unnecessary grounds for criticism on the eve of the parliamentary elections.

At the same time, the details of A. Khandruyev's appointment are an even greater reason to believe statements by Presidential Assistant A. Livshits and Duma Speaker I. Rybkin that the main candidate for the post of Central Bank chairman will be named in the near future. These are probably the president's real plans, rather than some diplomatic subterfuge.

It is possible that he simply wanted to shield the new candidate from the present parliament, whose actions on the eve of the elections are becoming increasingly nervous and unpredictable. In other words, it has been decided to name the principal candidate when there is no time left to do a "hatchet job" on him at parliamentary hearings. Then the chief banker will have time to become established in his post before new parliamentary committees are formed. It is very probable that one of the main conditions of the new candidate was that he be protected against a "going-over" in the present parliament.

Chernomyrdin Chairs Cabinet Session

LD1611115195 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Today a regular session of the Russian government was held led by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. Our special correspondent Regina Lukashina reports:

[Lukashina] Opening the Cabinet of Ministers session, Chernomyrdin congratulated those gathered on the passing of the 1996 draft budget in its first reading by the State Duma yesterday. At last, there will be an opportunity to start the financial year normally, the prime minister said. He recalled that in 1994 the budget was passed in June and in 1995 in March. This entailed major losses in the implementation of reforms. Now, it is important not to slacken our pace, Chernomyrdin said. This is highly important work on the document according to which the state lives throughout a year.

The prime minister thanked First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays personally and all the staff of the federal ministries and departments, who took part in the elaboration of the draft budget, and also to all the State Duma deputies.

Aleksandr Pozdnyakov, first deputy minister for affairs of nationalities and regional policy, spoke on the first item of the agenda — a draft federal program for state support for local self-government. He said that in 1995-96 it is necessary to create fundamental conditions, including legal ones, for the development of local self-government, and to establish information and personnel guarantees within the limits of the 35-50 billion rubles earmarked for 1996. The budget will adjust this figure. Pozdnyakov also recalled that seven relevant programs are already in place in 15 components of the Russian Federation, including the programs on the development of border areas in Blagoveshchensk and Leningrad Region, of the scientific and technical town-complexes in Obninsk and Kaliningrad and also the program for small towns in Russia. On 18 December, an All-Russian congress of the heads of local self-government bodies will be held in Moscow.

With Chernomyrdin's support Sergey Shoygu, the minister for emergencies, demanded that emphasis should be placed on the unification and efficient use of the information and administration system of local self-government.

Hails Duma, Chubays for Budget Adoption

LD1611113395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0913 GMT 16 Nov 95

[By Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW November 16 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin praised the State Duma for adopting the key figures of the 1996 budget and hailed his first deputy Anatoliy Chubays for talking the lower house into passing the decision.

Chernomyrdin told a government meeting on Thursday that the Duma approval of the budget in the first reading was "a decisive step" towards the final adoption of the document.

The budget is yet to pass the second and the third reading and Chernomyrdin said the document "has still what to work on" and that the conciliatory committee is specifying all details.

He thanked Chubays personally for making the Duma pass the decision. On Wednesday the lower house three times voted down the draft budget and agreed to pass it only after Chubays said the government would provide additional 4.6 trillion rubles (1 billion USD) appropriations to the agriculture, the defense industry and the social sphere.

The approved key figures of the budget include a 1.9 per cent average monthly inflation rate and a deficit of 88.5 trillion rubles (19 billion USD) or 3.85 per cent of the gross domestic product.

The second reading of the budget is to be held in 10 days.

Duma Committee Favors Dubinin as Central Bank Chairman

LD1511133695 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1241 GMT 15 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 15 Nov — The Duma committee for budget, taxes, banks, and finances unanimously decided today to recommend that the State Duma accept the candidacy of Sergey Dubinin, put forward by President Boris Yeltsin, for the post of chairman of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation.

This decision was made by the 23 members of the committee present at the meeting. No one voted against or abstained.

Former, Current Economy Ministers Back Dubinin

LD1511174895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1629 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 15 (INTERFAX) — Russian Economics Minister Yevgeniy Yasin believes the president made the right choice when he nominated Sergey Dubinin to chair Russia's Central Bank. Yasin said in an interview that Dubinin was a real professional, an expert in macro-economics and a tolerant personality capable of finding compromises with commercial bankers.

Yasin believes Dubinin was wrongly dismissed from the post of acting finance minister after the ruble crash on October 11 1994. "Black Tuesday was largely a result of impartial factors, such as heavy financial injections into the Russian economy in the summer of last year," Yasin said.

His predecessor, former Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin, shares this view. Shokhin, currently a member of the State Duma, says he has known Dubinin since college. They also worked together in the same Cabinet. Shokhin described Dubinin as a "very competent expert."

At the same time Shokhin said that Dubinin had been unable to display his full potential, because he was acting finance minister and lacked authority to resist heavy financial injections into the economy.

Shokhin believes that now that the President Yeltsin has nominated Dubinin for CBR [Central Bank of Russia] chairman, the subject of whether the Black Tuesday was a result of sabotage or a result of objective economic processes is closed.

Shokhin recalled that when Yeltsin decided to replace Tatyana Paramonova and invited Dubinin to become CBR's acting chairman, Dubinin "rightly declined the offer."

"I regard the president's choice as exoneration of Dubinin and many other economists, including myself, who can make mistakes but are not saboteurs," Shokhin said.

Livshits Praises Dubinin's Nomination

LD1511184195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1629 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 15 (INTERFAX) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin's economic aide Aleksandr Livshits has expressed approval of Sergey Dubinin's nomination as Central Bank chairman.

Dubinin's nomination, made by Yeltsin, is subject to confirmation by the State Duma, the lower house of parliament.

A year ago Yeltsin dismissed Dubinin as acting finance minister, laying on him part of the blame for "Black Tuesday," a day when the ruble made a deep and sudden plunge against the U.S. dollar.

"Of all the candidates who were worthy of taking the post of Central Bank chairman the Russian president has chosen the best one, Sergey Dubinin," Livshits, currently in the United States on a business trip, told INTERFAX special correspondent Vyacheslav Terekhov.

The aide said many financiers and economists, including himself, were sure Dubinin "possesses a high degree of professionalism and can not only defend his positions very firmly but find compromises and make contact with everyone for the sake of the cause."

Livshits rejected a suggestion that Dubinin's nomination was illogical after his dismissal last year. "All of us have drawn conclusions from the bitter events we experienced a year ago. Proper conclusions have been drawn by Sergey Dubinin as well. Besides, the year that has passed has enabled him to gain experience of work in various structures which he will need in his post as Central bank chairman and which have improved his standard as a financier."

Moreover, the government and Central Bank are pursuing a policy which "practically rules out the repetition of those sad events."

Nor does Dubinin's membership of the board of directors of state natural gas monopoly Gazprom mean that "somebody is trying to strengthen that well-known industrial company and all politicians connected with it. Such assertions have nothing to do with reality."

Livshits declined to answer whether the candidates included Viktor Gerashchenko, former Central Bank chairman fired as another official guilty of the "Black Tuesday." However, "one must not take a negative stance towards all those who were at the helm of economic policy a year ago," the aide added.

Yeltsin's choice of Dubinin is evidence that "the president makes professionalism and only professionalism the corner stone of his staffing policy," Livshits said.

He expressed the hope that Dubinin, Aleksandr Khandruyev and Tatyana Paramonova "will be working together for the benefit of the Russian economy, the banking system and the Central Bank itself."

Livshits said he had come to the United States to meet politicians, business people and academics "to explain the principles that underlie the Russian president's economic strategy."

More Reaction to Dubinin's Nomination

LD1511195895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1728 GMT 15 Nov 95

[Compiled by Anna Kovalyova, Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Boris Yunanov; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sergey Dubinin, nominated for the CBR's [Central Bank of Russia] president by President Yeltsin, has told journalists that he had not met President Yeltsin in person on the eve of the nomination. He said, however, that such decisions are never made without prior agreements or consultations.

President Yeltsin on Tuesday sent Dubinin's nomination for CBR president to State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin. In part, President Yeltsin says in the message that "Dubinin is an expert in financial and credit relations and an excellent organizer. I have no doubt that Dubinin will prove a worthy leader of the Central Bank." [IF note: S. Dubinin, age 54, Dr. Sc (Economics), was acting Finance Minister from February to October 1994. Currently he is chairman of the government commission for credit issues and deputy chairman of the board of the Imperial commercial bank.] Dubinin is an advocate of attracting big capital into the Russian economy, for which, he believes, inflation must be contained in the first place.

President Yeltsin has appointed Viktor Chernomyrdin his official representative when Dubinin's appointment will be considered in parliament. The State Duma will apparently consider the issue on November 17.

However, State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin has said that parliamentary factions and groups "are still unprepared to vote on the issue of Sergey Dubinin's nomination on Wednesday or Friday." He believes that before the candidature is put to the vote, Dubinin must have a chance to speak on his policy in factions and groups.

Rybkin confirmed that Dubinin's nomination was discussed when he met with President Yeltsin on Wednesday. Rybkin said that "we have many intelligent, business-like people, and that Sergey Dubinin is one of Russia's leading economists and financiers."

The chairman of the State Duma's budget committee Mikhail Zadornov said he was satisfied with President Yeltsin's choice. "This time the president picked up a very good candidate for CBR president," Zadornov said. He spoke highly of Dubinin's professional qualities and recalled that the nominee was greatly experienced in contacts with banks and parliament.

Zadornov believes there are very good chances that most State Duma members will approve of President Yeltsin's choice.

The Finance Ministry has welcomed the presidential proposal, too. First Deputy Finance Minister Vladimir Petrov described Dubinin as the most favorable candidate.

"The Finance Ministry knows Dubinin as an expert. We worked well as a team when we developed the 500-day program," Petrov said.

At the same time Petrov said that Dubinin was a man of principles and it would not be easy to work with them.

Petrov said he expected no drastic changes in the Central Bank's policies if parliament endorsed Dubinin.

At the same time for the Central Bank's staff Dubinin's nomination proved a great surprise. A senior CBR official said in an interview: "It is utterly unclear what the president had in mind when he appointed a new CBR chief for less than a week. (The CBR's first deputy president Aleksandr Khandruyev was appointed acting CBR president last week. — IF).

The senior CBR official said that "most of the bank's staff were certain that Khandruyev would stay in office at least until a new State Duma is elected."

At the same time Aleksandr Khandruyev told a news conference last Friday he was not at all worried about his own career and realized it was very probable he would not be presented to the State Duma as a candidate for the CBR's president. "It is most important for me to keep the Central Bank working normally. The CBR staff are tired of months of uncertainty," Khandruyev said.

Dubinin's Credentials Viewed

MM1611115995 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 16 Nov 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "It Seems That Dubinin Will Get This Bank"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sergey Dubinin is the former acting finance minister.

Unlike citizen Paramonova, Sergey Dubinin has a good chance of getting past the Duma deputies on Friday [17 November] and obtaining their highest seal of approval [as chairman of the Central Bank of Russia]. And it does not seem that the Duma members will be making a mistake. Sergey Konstantinovich was born in 1951 and has always delighted those around him with his kindly disposition, lack of extremism, and at the same time decisive action. While at school the tall, robust, beardless ninth-grade student Serezha Dubinin joined the student sports squad and along with his older brother worked extremely hard in the expanses of Kazakhstan. He graduated from Moscow University, defended his candidate's thesis and doctorate, and even while an acting minister Professor Dubinin did not sever contact with his alma mater but continued to teach students.

An exemplary family man and solicitous son, he has gotten accustomed to working at a frenetic pace, returning late in the evening to his modest Moscow apartment.

Sergey Konstantinovich was sacked after the ill-starred "Black Tuesday," when the dollar soared a whole 30 percent. But he retained the favor of Premier Chernomyrdin, who respected him for his supreme professionalism. The ousted acting minister has worked well throughout the year in other posts. In particular, as first deputy chairman of the board at the Imperial Bank, which works closely with Gazprom. Incidentally, the premier himself will introduce him tomorrow to the willful deputies.

Dubinin's credo involves taking a sensible, gradual approach. Perhaps, if he is ratified, he will succeed where Gerashchenko and Paramonova failed — namely in curbing inflation.

Military Issues

Grachev Interviewed on Yeltsin, Chechnya, Army Issues

LD1511124295 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1610 GMT 14 Nov 95

[Interview with Defense Minister Pavel Grachev by moderator Andrey Razbash; from the "Rush Hour" program — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Razbash] Good evening, we have one of the most popular people in our country on the program, a person whom we have waited to meet for a long time, and we feared it might never happen. But it is happening. On "Rush Hour" is Russian Defense Minister Pavel Sergeyevich Grachev. Good evening.

[Grachev] Good evening. You call me the most popular person. This of course flatters me, but I would not say that I am the most popular. [passage omitted: announcer on Grachev's biographical details and his interests; Grachev speaks of his surprise on original appointment as defense minister and his first impressions of work in the post]

[Razbash] At the Ostankino Television First Channel Network, there was a manager who once said: I have come here to carry out the president's wishes. The president gave you your job. Did you have a conversation with him prior to your appointment or immediately after your appointment, which you will perhaps remember some time in your memoirs?

[Grachev] I have no plans to write any memoirs yet because I have no time to write them. When I was being appointed, he did not speak to me. He just said it had to be. It was his close aide, Yuriy Skokov, who spoke to me most then, and he persuaded me that I had to become minister of defense. But of course, when I became defense minister, Boris Nikolayevich allocated me up to an hour of his time virtually every day. He explained what an important post this is, that we have to keep the army, that we have to reform the army; he indicated the basic directions in which reform should go, indicated the difficulties we would face in the reform; and he still gives me a huge amount of attention today, but this was particularly the case during the first year when he had complete information on what was happening in the army virtually every day.

[Razbash] That is clear, but nevertheless, our commander in chief went through the CPSU school — a very serious government school, but it is not a military school. Do you not need to educate him in the military sciences? You are a professional soldier, after all. From a professional soldier's point of view, do you need to fill in any of Yeltsin's gaps?

[Grachev] Well, the thing is that although he is not a professional soldier, he is a great politician. And after spending quite a long time as a leader and coming into contact with the military — incidentally, he was a member of the district military council in Yekaterinburg, in Sverdlovsk, he was always meeting the district command, knew how the army lived, what difficulties it had, he loved to shoot from tanks himself and to drive vehicles, so he knew a lot. As for the operational art of tactics, he was not afraid and is still not afraid to ask me how we are planning to conduct an army operation or a front operation, how the military intends to conduct combat operations in local wars or conflicts. He is constantly inquiring. As for the tactics of the smaller subunits, he knows a lot about strategy — any politician of his class knows about it.

[Razbash] When you became defense minister, in my view you were faced with a colossal task. The Soviet army had disintegrated. It had turned into the Russian army and partly into the army of the Commonwealth states. Control of the nuclear weapons, control of the colossal number of arsenals on other territories was a very important task. How then did it happen that some of the weapons fell into the hands of bandits and became the source for heated interethnic conflicts — or rather, not the source, but they started to be used in interethnic conflicts. How did this happen?

[Grachev] This happened, in my view, very simply. When the Soviet Union disintegrated, all of the states immediately declared their independence. The relevant sittings of the Supreme Soviets took place very quickly, and these declared that all property now belonged to the state which had now been formed. And, in essence, all military property and hardware remained in the states in which they were. But there was chaos in some of these states. You may recall Azerbaijan. We left a whole army there. Literally within six months, this army was looted and dissipated, dissipated and sold off. So you may remember the first successes in Nagornyy Karabakh. Everything seemed to be going as it should, but six months later, there was no army. The same thing was contemplated in Armenia, but the Armenian leaders quickly dealt with the issue. The same thing happened in Georgia. And unfortunately, the same thing happened in Russia.

[Razbash] Yes, in Russia, that is the most...

[Grachev, interrupting] [words indistinct]

[Razbash] How did Dudayev manage to assemble such a large quantity of weapons?

[Grachev] That is very simple as well. In March 1992, Dudayev, together with his Supreme Soviet, announced that Chechnya was an independent state and all military property was now the property of the Chechen republic. Everything was closed off, entry and exit, storehouses and bases were sealed off. Officers were expelled, members of their families were expelled, and they seized everything in this way. At the same time, neither the Russian Supreme Soviet nor the Russian Government were able to take appropriate measures to deal with the revolt.

[Razbash] Do you remember that Rutskoy was very harsh in his assessment of this at the time?

[Grachev] Of course I remember. Rutskoy was responsible for these issues. And in Rutskoy's cabinet, under his leadership, I, the minister, the late Barannikov, and other officials even planned a military operation to take back the hardware and weapons.

[Razbash] Why was this operation not carried out at the time?

[Grachev] It is difficult to say why.

[Razbash] I understand that it is difficult, but is it possible to say why?

[Grachev] It is possible. The point is that the young leaders of Russia, the democratic leaders of Russia, probably did not want to start their work with bloodshed.

[Razbash] Pavel Sergeyevich, if I can speak to you not as the defense minister or even as a military man, but as the father of a family, the father of two adult children, as a simple man, the war in Chechnya has been under way for a year. Somewhere inside you, somewhere in your heart, do you regret that military force was used in this way and that there have been so many deaths?

[Grachev] Yes, I regret it. The point is that when there are accusations that Grachev — whether as a simple man or as the defense minister is not important — has created the party of war and that he started the war, I do not agree, and I did not act in that way. This is a matter for the past. But I do regret that it happened, and Chechnya is still a sore point for me, and I am doing whatever I can to bring things to a speedy end; and the deaths are still continuing despite the truce. This issue can and must be resolved very soon. [passage omitted: announcer reads quote from MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA daily in which Grachev expresses regret over the handling of the Budennovsk siege; Grachev tells Razbash he blames no individual for the outcome, but he would like to know some of the reasoning behind some of the decisions taken]

[Razbash] In all civilized countries — those we think of as civilized, like the United States, Britain, Italy — the army is used more as a potential threat, as a political tool, where the potential threat is more terrible than actually using the army. In my view, this is the reason for having a strong army in society. But in Russia, politicians often use the army like a truncheon on their tables. This began in 1989 in Tbilisi.

[Grachev] Yes.

[Razbash] Don't you sometimes feel that you are the scapegoat?

[Grachev] Well, there was another scapegoat in 1989, and thank goodness the scapegoat in military uniform was acquitted, although I remember that they wanted to bring them to court. [passage omitted]

[Razbash] Is this situation repeating itself now?

[Grachev] No, the situation is not repeating itself. The point is that, first, in line with the Constitution and the new [military] doctrine, the army can be used or can help the interior troops and other bodies of state power in resolving an internal political conflict if it has reached a level where neither the militia nor the interior troops can deal with it; that is, if there are attempts to split Russia up into tiny principalities; that is, if there are attempts to tear from Russia a piece of land which is legitimately its own. And here, of course, the army should act.

[Razbash] Speaking to you now as defense minister, do you nevertheless think that the army is stronger as a potential threat, with the possible use of force, or is the army stronger when this force is used?

[Grachev] No, of course the army is stronger as a potential threat. But this can be seen in two ways. It depends on what the army is like at the current time and the tasks which are facing the army. If the army has global tasks, then the army is strong as a potential threat. If the army is faced with tactical tasks or internal policy tasks, then the army is strong when it acts.

[Razbash] I will remind you that you yourself said that you think that the political use of the army is often stronger than the military use. Tomorrow is Conscripts' Day. There are great problems with the call-up in our army. I work in television, and in my view, what the army needs is advertisements. [passage omitted]

[Grachev] So far, unfortunately, there have only been negative advertisements about us. You probably remember that last year was especially typical, when masses of politicians, journalists, and socialists gave speeches, drew up charts, said the call-up would not occur for this or that reason. There were a lot of these mass meetings of soldiers' mothers, the general staff building and other military establishments were blockaded. But the call-up did take place, and it took place as usual. And tomorrow is Conscripts' Day, 15 November. The call-up has not been completed, it will proceed. The call-up is progressing as it should; and what is typical for this year — there are two characteristic features: the first is that the parents of many servicemen are writing letters asking for their sons to be called up into the army. The nature of the letters is, first, that they fear, they do not want their sons to join bandit groups, to be criminals. Second, unfortunately, the poor financial situation of the family — that is, they want the army to feed them.

[Razbash] But do you not think that this choice is often a case of choosing the lesser of two evils? I would like to talk to you about this. We do not have much time left. It seems to me that there is a great deal in the image of the army, as the people see it, with regard to how the army reacts and answers questions. There are still questions hanging over Samashki — what happened there? Roshni-Chu, who bombed it? Although the army, as the example from MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS shows, is succeeding in finding another language, a new way of dealing with the press which is obviously more constructive, questions still remain; and it seems to me that the Defense Ministry, among others, still needs to do a lot with regard to the army's image. Do you have a department dealing with this in the Defense Ministry?

[Grachev] Well, first, I agree that there needs to be more information about the army. You know, no offense meant to you or many journalists, but when I meet people at work, attitudes toward the army are favorable, they know how the army functions, they know the difficulties the army faces, and somehow some journalists trying to write about the army do not see or know about this. They either do not want to see this or really do not see it. So we do have a main directorate for educational work within the Defense Ministry and there is also a department for work with the mass media. So I ask all journalists, all those who are interested in the reality of the situation within the army, how the army lives, what it lives on, and the fact that it is not the people's prison, to come to the main directorate and we will cooperate. Moreover, in recent times we really have noted profound changes in the field of cooperation and, as you said, with MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS, among others.

[Razbash] Yes, everyone has noticed that. One question: It may be very easy, but it is what we see. For some reason, the president, and not only the president, a number of ministers, including the defense minister, of a large country, a country which respects itself, travel around in foreign cars. We have our own Chaykas and

Zils. Are they worse, or are they not being produced any more? This is also part of people's image.

[Grachev] You know, it is easier to install special communications in foreign cars, and this is why the foreign Mercedes car is not a means of conveyance for me, the defense minister. I would be quite happy to travel around in my own Volga — I have a Volga 21 — I would be quite happy to, but they won't let me. All types of communications that a minister may use can be installed in a Mercedes, including those enabling use of nuclear weapons. That is the point. That is the first thing. Second, at the end of the day, even a 20-year-old boy who sees himself as a rich man now travels around in a Mercedes. Why shouldn't the president travel in a Mercedes?

[Razbash] A boy is a boy, but the president of a large country...

[Grachev, interrupting] Yes, and we need to ask where the boy gets the money. And the president of a large country should travel in the very best car.

[Razbash] Okay. I will not argue with that.

[Grachev] We have only one president.

[Razbash] Pavel Sergeyevich, thank you for your answers. [passage omitted]

[Razbash] I would like to read you a couple of telegrams as questions. How is the directive on withdrawing and replacing troops in Chechnya being implemented? This is from the mother of a soldier who has been in Chechnya for over six months.

[Grachev] I have repeatedly said that strict monitoring has now been established and no one will serve in Chechnya for longer than six months. That is the first thing; and second, there is the question of what is to be done with the boys who still have six months to serve. Dear parents, I have spoken to many commanders and to many soldiers who were to continue to serve for another few months, to complete their two years, on favorable territory in Russia. Many of them have refused and have asked to serve for two or three months in Chechnya so they can then leave earlier — let's say, in February or March instead of April or May. But some of the servicemen who do not want to serve will be sent to other garrisons to complete their terms.

[Razbash] Thank you, Pavel Sergeyevich, for your answers to our questions and for your answers to viewers' questions.

"Rush Hour" today has featured Russian Defense Minister Pavel Sergeyevich Grachev, one of the most popular public or perhaps political figures in our country.

Sees No Alternative to Yeltsin

LD1511200295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1907 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 15 (INTERFAX) — Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said he will vote for Boris Yeltsin, if the latter decides to run for Russia's presidency again. "I am a member of the presidential team and I will vote for Boris Yeltsin," he told a news conference in Moscow Wednesday.

Grachev said he did not see a politician in Russia capable of equally pursuing the course towards reforms and transformation. "You don't change horses in the middle of the river," he remarked.

According to Grachev, Yeltsin is quite popular in the army.

Grachev refuted foreign media reports that some army units were concentrating around Moscow, allegedly due to the president's illness. He said all units were having their usual training.

Commenting on the upcoming parliamentary elections, Grachev said, "I will unambiguously vote for a political trend to continue the course of Viktor Chernomyrdin's government towards stability and revival of the economy of our powerful state."

Speaking on the nomination of the military for the State Duma, Grachev said they will have to suspend their service for the term of their mandates. Those joining political parties or movements will have to choose between them and the army, he said referring to the law on military service.

Grachev Discusses Armed Forces, NATO Expansion

MM1611112395 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by Gennadiy Miranovich: "We Must Assess Armed Forces and Build Plans for the Future on the Basis of Realities; Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian Defense Minister, Believes"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has already reported the results of the training year are being summed up at the Russian Defense Ministry under the leadership of Army General Pavel Grachev. Within the framework of this event a rally of leaders of army and navy cadres organs and exercises with the leading personnel of the categories of troops and formations of all branches of the armed forces have already been carried out.

But the central event was yesterday's conference, which summed up the main results of the training year. Taking part were the commanders of military districts and fleets; Yuriy Baturin, the Russian Federation president's aide for national security; Security Council Secretary Oleg Lobov; Internal Affairs Minister Anatoliy Kulikov; government Vice Premier Aleksey Bolshakov; Sergey Shoygu, minister for emergency situations, and a number of other representatives of the power structures and advisers to the defense minister.

Opening the conference, Army General Pavel Grachev drew attention to features of the present training year. In particular he recalled that 1995 is the year of the 50th anniversary of the victory of the Soviet Union and the countries of the anti-Hitler coalition in World War II. The decisive contribution to this victory, the defense minister stressed, was made by the valiant USSR Armed Forces, whose heirs the Russian Armed Forces are. At the same time this year has shown in Army General Grachev's opinion that the changes which have taken place in the world have not led to the establishment of stability. The new era has given rise to new views of security. At first glance the main threats to security have shifted to the regional level. But that in no way means that the problems of global security have receded to the background. Russia's present geopolitical situation, the minister noted, can be described as quite complex.

In the estimation of the head of the Russian military department it is particularly worrying that "a number of international or regional organizations" are trying to arrogate UN peacekeeping functions. As an example he cited the situation which has taken shape in the Balkans, where there are attempts to impose a one-sided will on all participants in the conflict with no consideration for their historical and national features. The defense minister believes that any peacekeeping operations should be conducted by the decision of the United Nations and under its control. Concern was also voiced at the trends toward NATO's expansion to the East. Army General Pavel Grachev voiced the opinion that "the accession of a number of Central and East European states to the bloc will lead to a new situation on the continent, will affect Russia's political, economic, and military interests, and will require appropriate steps."

The defense minister called the situation in Chechnya "the main domestic Russian problem." Attention was also drawn to the fact that the Russian Armed Forces, which are the main instrument in the defense of the country and its interests, are in need of support. From these positions, Army General Pavel Grachev said, we must assess the state of the Armed Forces and build plans for the future.

Army General Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of general staff of the Russian Federation Armed Forces, delivered a report on the results of organizational development and training in the army and navy in 1995.

In conclusion the defense minister dwelled on the main avenues of organizational development and training of the Armed Forces in 1996. Army General Pavel Grachev held a press conference for representatives of the mass media.

Moscow 'Secretly' Cedes Kerch Garrison to Kiev

MK1611095795 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 15 Nov 95 p 9

[Report by Viktor Yadukha from Simferopol: "Dividing Black Sea Fleet Proceeds Apace. Moscow Secretly Handed Over to Kiev Tens of Thousands of Tonnes of Ammunition"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Your SEGODNYA correspondent has come to learn that a secret directive came in from the Russian Federation Navy main staff to the Black Sea Fleet command last Friday [10 November] to hand over to Ukraine's naval forces the entire Kerch Garrison of the Black Sea Fleet.

The garrison in Kerch is part of the vast Kerch-Feodosia Naval Base of the fleet, which comprises a network of former aircraft, rocket, and naval weapons ranges and landing training grounds of the USSR Navy, Feodosia's "Zaliv" ship repair plant, and several kilometers of moorings with infrastructure. In Kerch, in addition to the naval base, there is in the former stone quarries one of the most powerful naval arsenals. According to informed sources in the Black Sea Fleet staff, its capacity is not less than the notorious stockpiles of the former 14th Army in the Dniester Region. The Russian military would require 2,500 rail cars to withdraw the Kerch ammunition stockpiles, including a nine-tonne bomb stock to, say, the Kuban area.

The Fleet's staff regards the transfer of Kerch as yet another subproduct of an unofficial fusion between the main staff of Russia's Navy and Ukraine's military department. They regard this act as illegal since the "black redistribution" of the fleet is at odds with the Yeltsin-Kuchma Sochi agreements. Yet, Kiev and Moscow have long been failing to take seriously all such agreements.

Much more interesting is another thing: What is Ukraine's Defense Ministry, which only has a handful of battleworthy ships, going to do with this "deposit of death?" In Sevastopol, they only grin sarcastically and note that Crimea is halfway on the shortest road from Bosnia to Chechnya.

Federal Assembly

Parliament Approves Ban on Power Cut-Offs to Army

LD1511134595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1234 GMT 15 Nov 95

[By Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 15 (Itar-Tass) — A law on criminal responsibility of senior officials responsible for power cut-offs to military facilities will prevent emergency situations, said deputy chairman of the Federation Council committee for issues of defence and security, Captain first rank Petr Premyak. The draft law drawn by the State Duma and approved by the Federation Council, has been submitted to the Russian president for signing, Premyak said.

The law envisages punishment for imposing a blackout on defense facilities up to three years in prison, depending on the size of the damage and other after-effects caused by power cut-offs.

Premyak said that the law is a logical continuation of a resolution adopted by the Russian government on "Urgent measures to stabilise power supplies," signed by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin on November 5. The law, which bans power cuts-off to defense facilities until mid-May, 1996, is of great importance to the Russian Armed Forces.

Military facilities are not subject to gas, electricity , heat and other fuel cut-offs, Premyak said. The resolution will be fostered by a legal mechanism to punish those who abuse their power, posing a threat to the health and lives of citizens, he noted.

Rybkin Presents New Bill on Federation Council to Yeltsin

LD1511153495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1346 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 15 (Interfax) — Speaker of the Russian State Duma (lower house) Ivan Rybkin said on Wednesday he handed a new bill on the formation of the Federation Council (upper house) to President Boris Yeltsin while visiting him at the Central Clinical Hospital in Moscow.

The bill, drawn up by Duma Deputy Speaker Artur Chilingarov, stipulates that the Council is to made up of regional governors and heads of parliament, Rybkin told reporters.

In the event of a bicameral regional parliament, the two houses are expected to meet together to decide which of the two speakers is to become a Council member.

Rybkin said the president had backed the proposed law.

Collision over the existing election law was also on the agenda, he said. (Russia's High Court has sent a plea to the Constitutional Court to challenge the law's clause saying parties failing to win at least 5 percent of the vote are not eligible for parliament).

Rybkin said there was no other option but to wait until the Constitutional Court passes its verdict.

On Yeltsin's condition, the speaker said the president was feeling fine, adding that his hand still ached from the president's handshake.

Shumeyko Comments on Bill

LD1511172295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1629 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 15 (Interfax) — The Federation Council (the upper house of Russia's parliament) on Wednesday decided not to discuss a bill on the formation of the upper house drawn up by Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko.

Instead, they decided that a new bill must be drafted by working groups of the two houses of parliament.

Shumeyko informed council members of his discussion Tuesday with Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin on issues related to the election of the State Duma and formation of the Federation Council.

Referring to his protracted meeting with President Boris Yeltsin at the Central Clinical Hospital on Saturday [11 November], Shumeyko warned against expectations of a presidential decree on the formation of the council.

"The time for decrees is now past, everything must be determined by the constitution," he said.

Shumeyko says the Council's mandate does not expire on December 12. "We can operate for a further two or three months — this is not critical. But the upper house cannot operate for another year — our conscience will not allow it," he said.

For his part, head of the Council's committee for constitutional legislation Issa Kostoyev told the house that the controversial law on the formation of the upper house must be determined in line with a Constitutional Court verdict. He said the Court is expected to rule on whether the word "formation" implies the election or appointment of Council members.

Federation Council Passes Law on State Support of Media

LD1511211095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1907 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 15 (Interfax) — The Federation Council approved Wednesday the

"Law on State Support for Mass Media and Book Publishing in Russia" passed by the State Duma on October 18. A total of 121 of the upper house deputies voted for the approval, while one voted against it and six abstained from voting.

Unlike the initial draft law rejected in May, the final variant of the bill envisages tax, customs and other allowances for media and for publication of books relating to education, science and culture.

Publishing houses have been granted the right to pay the same charges for the use of postal, telegraph and telephone services as budgetary organizations do.

Provisions relating to the privatization of printing facilities come into effect on the day of the publication of the law and will be in force until the Federation Council approves the State Program of Privatization of State and Municipal Enterprises in Russia.

The bill imposes provisional limitations on the allowances granted to media and publishing houses, which will be in force for three years, from 1996 to 1998.

Duma Approves Key 1996 Budget Figures

LD1511162095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1554 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 15 (Itar-Tass) — The Russian State Duma approved the key 1996 budget figures on Wednesday shortly after it rejected them in the first vote.

The lower house of the Russian legislature approved the draft state budget for 1996, envisaging a deficit of 3.85 per cent of GDP and inflation rate of 1.9 per cent, on a first reading.

Earlier today, it rejected the draft failing to make the required majority of 226.

Last month Duma rejected the then draft calling its figures "unrealistic" and set up a reconciliatory government-legislative commission to agree on the disputed figures.

Communists, Agrarians, Yabloko Oppose Budget

LD1511174495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1404 GMT 15 Nov 95

[By Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 15 (Itar-Tass) — Representatives of the Communist, Agrarian and Yabloko factions said at the State Duma headquarters on Wednesday that they do not support the draft budget for 1996.

Despite the fact that a conciliatory commission had worked for three weeks, correcting main budgetary figures, the amended draft budget reached as a result of a compromise failed to satisfy the opposing factions who demanded that the draft budget be rejected in the first reading.

A similar stance is expected to be taken by lawmakers of Russia's Democratic party and possibly, by the "New Regional Politics" faction. If this happens, adopting the draft budget in the first reading will be called into question.

The main reason why several factions opposed the draft budget suggested by the government is that the Cabinet of Ministers had drawn this document on the basis on unrealistic inflation rates of 1.9 per cent a month forecast for 1996.

Russia's Choice, The Women of Russia and the Liberal Democratic Party have supported the draft budget finalized by the conciliatory commission.

Debates on the draft budget will be continued.

Women of Russia Faction Favors Budget

LD1511142595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1122 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 15 (Interfax) — The Women of Russia faction of the State Duma decided to vote in favor of the endorsement in the first reading of next year's draft federal budget, the leader of that faction Yekaterina Lakhova told Interfax.

A bill of law is adopted if it wins endorsement in three readings in the State Duma.

Earlier the Duma rejected the government's draft of next year's federal budget. The draft was then sent for more consideration to a conciliatory commission. The Duma will be expected to hold a full-body session for the consideration of the draft budget Wednesday.

The Women of Russia will not even consider vote in the second reading of the draft budget until it has familiarized itself with the Central Bank's spending on Chechnya and social insurance and safety net programs, Lakhova told Interfax.

Unless they endorse it Wednesday, the lawmakers may fail to endorse the draft budget before the end of 1995.

Duma's Approval of Dubinin Seen Less Than Certain

MK1611120695 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 15 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Bekker: "The President Is Calling Sergey Dubinin Up for State Service. State Duma's Response Is Not Apparent"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Aleksandr Pochinok, deputy chairman of the State Duma Budget Committee, informed the "Ekho Moskvy" radio station that yesterday the president sent to the Duma Budget Committee his proposal that Sergey Dubinin be considered "a probable candidate for the post of Central Bank head." A year ago, after "Black Tuesday," Boris Yeltsin dismissed Sergey Dubinin, despite Viktor Chernomydrin's desire to defend the acting finance minister. Now the president, on the premier's suggestion, is ready to propose that the State Duma approve Mr. Dubinin as the head of the Central Bank. On the one hand, this confirms that Chernomydrin's cabinet is not going to introduce any changes in the strategy of reforms, but, on the other, this signifies that Boris Yeltsin intends to support the present course, irrespective of the political alignment of forces in the future parliament.

Mr. Dubinin's professionalism is further validated by the fact that it was he whom Boris Fedorov, leaving the building in Ilyinka Street in February 1994, proposed as his successor. Mr. Dubinin's obvious drawback — a lack of banking experience — seems to be completely outweighed by his erudition and extensive general economic background, which enable him to get to the core of the matter promptly. As for Mr. Dubinin's well-known high cultural level and tolerance, they could probably melt the ice of distrust on the part of the Central Bank's rather conservative staff, for whom he still remains an alien person.

Recently, Mikhail Lapshin, leader of the Agrarians, has noted that Sergey Dubinin is quite fit for the role of Central Bank head. There is, however, no full guarantee that the State Duma will approve Mr. Dubinin as the head of the Central Bank. The stakes are very high: According to the Law on the Central Bank, its future head will lead the most important institution in post-Communist Russia into the next millennium. Therefore, this may prove to be a stumbling block both for the Sixth Duma and, possibly, for the next president, too. Over the past year, Mr. Dubinin worked at the Imperial Bank and the Gazprom concern. The too conspicuous shadow of the present premier may render Sergey Dubinin a figure who cannot be bypassed.

Regional Affairs

Chechnya Reportage: Politics, Negotiations, Military

Yeltsin Urges More Rapid Reconstruction

AU1511135295 Paris AFP in English 1336 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Moscow, Nov 15 (AFP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin urged his special envoy for Chechnya to speed up reconstruction in the war-shattered Caucasus republic during a meeting in hospital here Wednesday [15 November].

The presidential press service said Yeltsin told Oleg Lobov, Secretary of the Russian Security Council, that he should "speed up the repairs of damaged buildings" and construction of new ones as well as "payment of compensation to war victims".

The first 150 billion rubles ($33.3 million) allocated for reconstruction in Chechnya has reached the Russian social welfare ministry, the press service said.

Lobov Tuesday estimated the cost of reconstruction in the oil-rich land, torn apart by fighting between separatists and federal troops, at between 20,000 and 25,000 billion rubles ($4.4 to 5.5 billion) next year.

He said Moscow had already given 7,000 billion rubles ($1.5 billion) in aid so far this year, while a five-year action plan would be implemented to encourage outside investment in Chechnya.

Yeltsin also told Lobov that he supported the pro-Moscow Chechen administration's plans to "hold elections simultaneously to the lower house of the Russian parliament, the State Duma, and to the post of Chechen republican leader".

The Duma elections are slated for December 17.

Yeltsin and Lobov also discussed plans for an international conference in Moscow next spring on nuclear security.

Doctors have advised Yeltsin to spend up to three weeks in hospital and a further two weeks resting following his second heart attack in four months. [passage omitted]

Russian Troops To Begin Patrols in Groznyy

LD1511174595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1629 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Nov 15 (Interfax) — Russian and Chechen police units supported by security forces are carrying out a sweeping operation in one of the districts of Groznyy to seize illegal weapons and check identification papers, our correspondent reports from Groznyy.

Commander of a special police unit, Anatoliy Nikitin, told reporters on Wednesday that plans are under way to carry out similar operations in three other districts there in the next few days.

The next combing operation is to be held in Leninsk district, the scene of fierce night attacks on Russian checkpoints in the past few days.

Nikitin said the preventive measures were being aimed at defusing tension in and around Groznyy. Security is to be tightened at all checkpoints outside Groznyy and inspection held of cars and other vehicles.

Nikitin said round-the-clock patrolling of all parts of the city is to be imposed later tonight.

FSB Seeks 'Radioactive Containers'

MM1511164295 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Igor Vandenko: Where Are the Radioactive Containers from Chechnya Heading?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to information in the editorial office's possession, Federal Security Service [FSB] agents are currently conducting a large-scale operation to spot rail freight containers from Chechnya which are thought to be carrying a certain amount of radioactive substances. A terrorist act on Russian soil is thought to be the "ultimate purpose" of this cargo. The numbers of the containers which could be transporting this radioactive material are known.

The special services' activity in Chechnya has for a year now been cloaked in the utmost secrecy, state and military interests invariably being cited here. All information about it has essentially been after the event, that is to say, has amounted to reporting what was done after a terrorist act had already been committed rather than had been done to prevent one. It has accordingly been pretty difficult to judge the effectiveness of the security service agents' work. This time your IZVESTIYA correspondent has managed to obtain information about the special services' preventive activity in Chechnya.

Regional agencies of the FSB and the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] have received a "heads-up" on the "radioactive" containers. The first "response" came in Rostov-na-Donu. Two containers bearing "wanted numbers" arrived at Rostov-Tovarnaya Station the other day. Local FSB agents, together with members of the Internal Affairs Administration transport section, a civil defense task force, and the city's Sanitary and Epidemiological Supervision Service checked the freight. They found only passengers' personal belongings in the containers from Groznyy.

However, these were just two containers from a whole list of numbers given in the "heads-up." According to IZVESTIYA's information, the search for the rest of the "suspect" containers continues.

Attacks on Federal Troops Grow 'Sharply'

LD1611083095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0802 GMT 16 Nov 95

[By Sergey Bazhenov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 16 (Itar-Tass) — The number of unprovoked attacks on federal forces by Dudayev's gunmen grew sharply during the past 24 hours. Chief of the Federal Command's Press Centre Yevgeniy Ryabtsev said today that "Dudayev's men had launched 59 attacks during the past 24 hours, which is a record number for the past five months — the peak of their combat actions".

Ryabov told Itar-Tass by telephone that the heaviest fire was opened provocatively in the area of the southeastern localities of Orekhovo, Gekhi-Chu, Achkhoy-Martan, and Tangi.

In Groznyy federal troops came under fire on 42 occasions. The heaviest fire from automatic weapons and sniper rifles was reported from places of compact deployment of federal army units, from commandant offices, army checkpoints, and detachments of the anti-riot police in the central Groznyy districts of Staropromyslovskiy (23 times), and Leninskiy (11 times). Retaliatory fire had to be opened in some cases.

The Press Centre Chief noted that at present "the federal command is devoting heightened attention to the proper equipment of fortifications and to explanatory work among servicemen in order to prevent casualties". And this has already yielded positive results, Ryabtsev noted: there was not a single man killed or wounded among the federal troops during the past 24 hours. The attackers lost 16 men killed.

The representative of the Federal Command said that the latter "is resolved to actively counteract Dudayev's gunmen and plans to deal blows from the air whenever it is necessary".

Internal Troop General Urges State of Emergency

LD1611121195 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 16 Nov 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [[Begin recording] [Lieutenant General Stanislav Kavun, deputy commander of Russia's internal troops] It would altogether have been better to introduce a state of emergency, in keeping with the law, of course. [end recording]

Stanislav Kavun, deputy commander of internal troops, suggested this way of resolving the Chechen crisis today. The general said that internal troops have so far been successful in resolving the problem of ensuring a state of emergency in the Chechen republic. No other options were mentioned today.

Replying to a question about the election situation in Chechnya, General Kavun said that, given the current situation in the republic, it will not be possible to hold elections there. The general thinks that it will be a farce if they do take place.

The deputy commander of internal troops told journalists today about the problems of his own department. The financial problem is the most acute, he said. Internal troops have received only 30 percent of what they need from the state budget — 1.6 billion rubles. At the same time, approximately 600 billion has been spent to finance the operation in Chechnya.

General Kavun thinks it is necessary to define the real numerical strength of internal troops, proceeding from considerations of internal security and external threats. No external enemies were mentioned today.

The situation inside the country was touched upon when terrorism was mentioned. The safety of Russia's nuclear facilities is ever more frequently put in doubt these days, but the deputy commander of internal troops rejected all conjectures and said that Russia's nuclear complex is safe.

No 'Visible Changes' in Situation

LD1511205595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2014 GMT 15 Nov 95

[By Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, November 15 (Itar-Tass) — The situation in the Chechen Republic remains without visible changes for the better. Illegal armed formations continue to shell units of the federal troops, including the use of mortars, automatic grenade launchers and anti-tank guided missiles, they lay ambushes, attack servicemen and transport means. The republic has a high level of crime.

Therefore, it is still early to speak about the improvement of the situation, but I can say with confidence that the federal troops together with interior units of the Chechen Republic are controlling the territory which they are occupying, Lieutenant-General Anatoliy Shkirko, commander of the joint group of the federal troops in Chechnya, told journalists here today.

The commander noted specifically that illegal armed formations have been using a new tactics of action lately. They commit acts of terrorism and sabotage, and set ambushes, in other words, do everything to destabilise the situation.

All their actions are directed not only against the federal troops but on the whole against the process of transition to peaceful life on the territory of Chechnya and against local heads of administration.

General Shkirko said there were several cases of sending letters with threats to administrations which were working for stabilization and peaceful life. This happened in the Achkhoy-Martan and Urus-Martan districts. In the Vedeno district militants captured a deputy head of the administration.

Dudayev's side does not need stabilisation. The information which we have confirm its tactics, an antipopular tactics of which we have already heard in history — using "human shields" when women, children and old men are going in front, followed by armed militants. Thus they try to provoke clashes with the federal troops so that later accuse them of killing civilians. In addition, we know that militants are also ready to fire at the back of their compatriots, Shkirko said.

The commander noted that he hoped that the process of the talks on the implementation of the agreement on military issues would continue.

"I am somewhat confused by the position of the opposite side. Their statements are not supported by practical actions. For example, the case of Lieutenant-Colonel Maksimenko and private Moroz who were reported missing. They were sent to ensure security of Aslan Maskhadov's passage through posts of the federal troops. So, correspondingly, he was responsible for these servicemen when going through populated localities. Now we know that Maksimenko and Moroz are in one of the inhabited areas in the south-west of the republic. We are sure they are being kept by Dudayev's supporters, and Maskhadov should know about this. The fact that Maskhadov states his readiness to sit at the negotiating table without considering the fate of Maksimenko an obstacle on the way to the talks, shows his unwillingness to solve the lieutenant-colonel's problem. After all, it is a matter of honour of Maskhadov himself. This problem must be settled," the general said.

"We will continue the work on an exchange of prisoners-of-war. We will use all possible means to free our soldiers. In the past ten days we have already managed to liberate eight Russian servicemen, although the opposite side stated earlier that no work would be done until foreign observers arrived," Shkirko noted.

This week a contact meeting took place, the commander noted. The Chechen side brought a list of 1384 people who were being searched by it, and "we handed over to them a list of 458 servicemen reported missing," he said. According to him, a next meeting is scheduled for Monday.

Touching on the preparation of the federal troops for a winter, the lieutenant-general said this work was being carried out in accordance with a plan, although there were some difficulties. They are connected mostly with local conditions and the weather. All servicemen are provided with warm clothes and have a sufficient reserve of food products for a month.

General Shkirko characterised the moral spirit of Russian servicemen as being high. "Nobody complains although I see that they are in very hard conditions. But they are ready to fulfil the tasks set before them," he said.

Dudayevites 'To Frustrate' Elections

LD1611095795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0839 GMT 16 Nov 95

[By Sergey Bazhenov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 16 (Itar-Tass) — The Dudayev side intends to frustrate the preparation for the election of head of the Chechen republic planned to be held simultaneously with the elections to the Russian State Duma on December 17. Movladiy Udugov, Information Minister in the Dudayev government, said this on the telephone on Thursday [16 November].

President Boris Yeltsin wants legislative elections to go ahead in Chechnya on December 17 along with the rest of Russia, the President's representative in Chechnya, Oleg Lobov, said on Wednesday [15 November].

"There will be no election in Chechnya until Russian troops are pulled out," Udugov told Itar-Tass. He said the Russian authorities' attempt to hold simultaneous elections is absolutely prospectless. The Dudayev side will not permit the voting, Udugov said.

The present leadership of the Chechen republic made the initiative for holding the elections to the Russian State Duma in the Chechen territory simultaneously with the elections of the republic's head on December 17. The Russian President supported this initiative.

Economic Issues

State Statistics Committee Sums Up Oct Results

MK1611100195 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 14 Nov 95 p 3

[Report by Boris Boyko: "State Committee on Statistics Sums Up October Results. Results Do Not Prove To Be the Worst"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the course of the election campaign, the main statistics department clearly decided to keep a step ahead of government opponents and to dot the "i's" and cross the "t's" in economic questions by holding monthly press conferences in the Government House. At his press conference yesterday, chairman of the State Committee on Statistics [Goskomstat] Yuriy Yurkov summed up, as he did the previous time, Russia's socioeconomic position over the past month.

Goskomstat's regular press conferences are designed to show that things in the Russian economy have been shaping up rather well in recent times — Yuriy Yurkov's department has long been reputed to be a too politicized an agency and too loyal to the authorities. This gives the opposition grounds to distrust the upbeat reports of the statisticians from Sakharov Prospekt. However, it has been increasingly difficult to argue with Goskomstat of late — for more than one month in a row, the economy (more accurately, some part of it) has been demonstrating an increasingly convincing stability and even growth. This also was the case in October.

The results proved to be rather comforting — at least as far as inflation is concerned. Yurkov clearly stated: "If the present tendencies in the dynamics of prices in Russia keep up, the rate of inflation in November will be about 4 percent." Prices in the first eight days in November grew 1.1 percent. He thinks this is attributable to the action of not only monetary factors, but also of administrative factors, such as restraining energy and rail haulage prices, as well as the hard-currency corridor. Yurkov, however, made it understood that the government would soon be obliged to take measures to prop up the rate and purchasing power of the dollar. He pointed out: "We are not too mobile working in the corridor."

The overall picture of the country's socioeconomic position, according to the figures made public by the Goskomstat chairman, is as follows. Between January and October 1995, the GDP was down 4 percent on the same period last year, but it remains the same as in September. Industrial production between January and October is down 3 percent on the same period last year, but it was 4 percent higher by September without taking account of the seasonal factor, whereas the production of consumer goods was up 7 percent. Feeling the worst, as always, are the light and food industries.

As for capital investments, the position is worse. They dropped 4 percent this past October compared to last October, and 14 percent between January and October compared to the same period in 1994. Compared to this past September, the general volume of capital investments fell 7 percent in October. It is very curious that exports fell 2 percent and imports 0.2 percent in October in comparison with September, whereas exports grew 22 percent and imports 17 percent between January and October compared to the same period last year. Yurkov mysteriously noted in this regard: "The figures make one reflect."

Goskomstat's figures on the dynamics of the population's real incomes over 10 months are not very encouraging — incomes fell by about 12 percent during the year. However, in October, mainly thanks to payments (held up in September) in the budget-funded sphere, they rose 2 percent.

Taking questions from the mass media, Yurkov, as the head of the statistical department is supposed to, declined to come up with any economic forecasts, stating forecasts "are outside my province." As in the previous press conference, he confirmed that his agency's calculation methods enable it to come up with trustworthy assessments recognized by international organizations. He admitted, however, that it is necessary to alter the information-gathering system, which remains the same as it was in Soviet times. A conference at Goskomstat opens today to discuss precisely this problem.

Expert Predicts 1.9 Percent Inflation in March

MK1611100095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 15 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Aleksandr Bekker: "Sergey Pavlenko Reassures Market Agents. By March, Inflation Will Drop to Its Target Level"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Speaking at yesterday's news conference, Richard Laird, professor of the London School of Economics and a member of the government's consultant group, reported a sharp increase in the federal budget spending that occurred in October. In that month, it totaled approximately twice as much as in any of the preceding months of the year. This "outburst" is explained by the lack of money in the Pension Fund, which is a nonbudgetary source, and so, money for pensions had to be allowed for in the Federal Budget.

In addition, the budget deficit was affected negatively by arrears in tax revenues from the provinces and the frustration of the monetary privatization program. "All this is annoying, of course, but not fatal," said Sergey Pavlenko, director of the government's Working Center for Economic Reforms (WCER), to SEGODNYA. According to his calculations, the federal budget deficit, as before, does not exceed 3 percent of GDP, whereas the projected figure for the end of the year is 5.6 percent of GDP. Mr. Pavlenko thinks that such a safety margin, or "a cushion," as he put it, enables the government to face future with confidence.

"Market agents must have no reasons for panic," the WCER director maintains. In his words, the country has found itself in a poststabilization trap, when, objectively, the economy has already entered the depression stage, preceding the industrial upsurge, but the society and the market agents have not completely abandoned their inflationary expectations. In Mr. Pavlenko's view, in December, inflation will be down to 3 percent, and as soon as by March, it will reach the target level of 1.9 percent assumed in the 1996 Budget. The decrease of inflation will be affected by the restrictive monetary policy, pursued by the Central Bank this fall. The money of the market agents will also be tied up by mortgage-and-loan auctions of Russia's major enterprises to be held by the State Property Committee and the Russian Fund of Federal Property in November and December.

Dubinin: 'No Reason' To Alter Monetary-Credit System

LD1511212295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1907 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 15 (PIA-Interfax) — Member of Gazprom's board of directors Sergey Dubinin told a briefing at Russia's Gazprom company today that he saw no reason to radically change the country's monetary-credit system at present.

The briefing was held after the State Duma Budget Committee unanimously approved Dubinin's nomination to chair the Russian Central Bank [of Russia — CBR].

Dubinin declined to elaborate on the first moves he would make if his appointment as CBR chairman was approved by the State Duma. Nevertheless, he said he was in favor of consistency in the CBR policy, coordination of the CBR activities with the Russian government, presidential apparatus and commercial banks. Dubinin also said he believed that the CBR's performance should be transparent for the public.

Dubinin, the former finance minister, said he thought it necessary to change the methods for implementing the monetary-credit policy drawn up in the fall of 1994 and pursued at present. He said he was against raising the export duty on gas from 2 ECU to 5 ECU per 1,000 cubic meters. "If this happens, Gazprom will have to subsidize export, which would become uneconomical for it," he said.

Dubinin declined to elaborate on possible changes in the so-called currency corridor (the ruble peg). "The situation has to be examined," he said. However, he said that if the currency corridor was to remain, its limits should be announced not just for the next three months but for a longer time "so that commercial and banking structures and governmental agencies can make corresponding decisions."

Terms Outlined for Investing in Yukos Oil Firm

MM1411152895 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA ("Business Tuesday" Section) in Russian 14 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by Viktor Begletsov: "Investments: Yukos Shares To Go Under the Hammer"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At a press conference in the Russian Federation Chamber of Trade and Industry Business Center the leaders of the Yukos oil company and the Menatep Bank set out the terms of the investment tender for the sale of 33 percent of the shares and the transfer by auction as collateral [auktsion po peredache v zalog] of 45 percent of the shares in what is Russia's largest oil company in terms of prospected reserves. The tender and the auction will be held at the same time 8 December, and if the same investor wins both he will receive 78 percent of the shares, giving him full control of Yukos.

Potential investors are subject to extremely extensive, tough requirements. Bidders for the investment tender must deposit $350 million in a Finance Ministry account held with the Central Bank of Russia. The initial investment must be $150 million. That is the auction starting price. The auction is being organized by the Menatep Bank as the representative of the Russian State Committee for the Management of State Property. However, K. Kagalovskiy, first deputy chairman of the bank's board, disagreed with journalists' suggestion that a Menatep victory is guaranteed.

Particular attention was drawn to those points in the auction terms banning foreign corporate entities and individuals as well as those with 25 percent or more foreign incorporation capital from taking part.

If the auction winner is found to be in breach of this condition, the auction results will be ruled invalid and the deposited funds confiscated for the budget. These steps have been introduced to protect Russia's national interests.

Investors Upbeat on Opportunities Beyond Moscow

MK1611121095 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 14 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by Konstantin Levin: "Investments and Trade: A Conflicting Union"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian business climate is apparently not so severe for foreign investors — at least U.S. investors. The exuberant entrepreneurship of the Yankees can no longer stay within the bounds of Moscow, oversaturated with Western companies' representational offices: It is gradually moving to the Russian regions. Thus, a conference entitled "Beyond Moscow: Trade and Investment in the Regions of Russia," began yesterday at the Chamber of Commerce and Trade Congress Center. The guides through the jungle of Russian tax and investment laws were not only representatives of the Russian bureaucracy, but also U.S. Embassy staffers who acted as a kind of lobbyist for the Russian regions.

Organized by the American Chamber of Commerce and the U.S.-Russia Business Council, the four-day conference is not the first of its kind. The Federal Securities and Stock Exchange Commission has already organized two similar events in Moscow this year with no less a representative number of participants. In effect the aim of such conferences is to provide political and economic advertising for investment opportunities in Russia. There are virtually no new participants in the Russian market on the U.S. side, and therefore they do not need to be persuaded about its investment capacity and attractiveness. Here they are talking about U.S. investment targets: The Russian regions are becoming a growing attraction for U.S. investors. Foreigners are not put off even by Russia's organized crime. Thus, in addition to Tatarstan and Nizhniy Novgorod, long engaged by foreign investors, representatives of Sverdlovsk Oblast were also invited to the conference, which speaks not only for the clout of its governor, Eduard Rossel, but also of an absence of fear over police statistics which, with or without reason, rank this region among the worst crime-ridden areas in Russia. With characteristic American pragmatism, the programs for standing up to Russian organized crime were translated into concrete recommendations for businessmen by the Moscow representatives of the Business Security Service, created by Secretary of State George Schultz as part of his department. Robert Franks, a U.S. Embassy security officer, put special emphasis on cooperation with the Russian Federation Internal Affairs Ministry, which, in his opinion, is quite capable of protecting U.S. businessmen.

On the whole, U.S. diplomats, including Ambassador Thomas Pickering himself, were fairly optimistic. They believe that "most of the obstacles in the way of investment flow from the United States" will soon be removed. Amazingly, all of the Americans were confident that the time when Russian tax legislation will become more predictable is around the corner. This belief was persistently promoted (which was quite superfluous) by, among others, the Russian authorities, in particular Vladimir Shumeyko, Federation Council chairman; and Nikolay Drozdov, secretary of the "Gore-Chernomyrdin" intergovernmental commission and deputy foreign trade minister. Special hopes were pinned on the new Russian Tax Code being adopted by January 1997. To all appearances, in the subsequent days of the conference's work, the leaders of Tatarstan, Nizhniy Novgorod, Murmansk, Khabarovsk Kray, and Sverdlovsk Oblast will seek to boost their regions' investment ratings, which are apparently not at all low even now. To this end, their leading authorities [ikh pervyye litsa], who never miss an opportunity to promote themselves, gathered at the Chamber of Commerce and Trade.

On the other hand, federal government representatives put an emphasis not so much on foreign capital as on removing discrimination in trade. After a predictable lament about insufficient direct foreign investment ($2 billion, more than half of it coming from the United States), Nikolay Drozdov nonetheless drew attention to the fact that Russia is being subjected to trade discrimination on the part of the United States. The Russian side is particularly unhappy with antidumping procedures that affect Russian exports of uranium (approximately $170 million a year) and small arms.

International Affairs

Kuchma, Yeltsin Agree on Post-Recovery Meeting

LD1611101195 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian
0930 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — A long and friendly telephone conversation between Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and Russian President Boris Yeltsin took place yesterday. During the conversation the Ukrainian president wished his counterpart a speedy recovery, good health, and a speedy return to his working office in the Kremlin.

The two presidents also exchanged opinions on a broad range of the most important issues of bilateral relations, and discussed the problems of and prospects for the development of cooperation between Ukraine and Russia. Leonid Kuchma and Boris Yeltsin agreed on a meeting, which is to take place as soon as the Russian president has fully recovered, the Ukrainian president's press office reported.

Leaders Reach 'Better Understanding' at CIS Talks

AU1611090295 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY
in Ukrainian 10 Nov 95 p 5

[Report by Natalya Filipchuk: "We Signed What We Could" — First sentence published in a box]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the recent session of the Council of CIS Heads of State that was held in Moscow on 3 November, Ukraine once again confirmed its determination to refrain from discussing issues that are at variance with Ukrainian legislation and from signing relevant documents.

This time, Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk did not agree to Russian Prime Minister Chernomyrdin's proposal that the powers of the International Economic Committee be expanded. Heads of other states, in particular of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan, jointly with the Russian Federation, also stated that they have their own points of view on the issue and signed an appeal to all CIS states calling upon them to promote economic integration within the framework of the CIS Economic Union and to create a single customs area. This is perhaps as it should be: Every independent state is entitled to its own understanding of the future and to determining its place — either within the former USSR or in the world.

As regards Ukrainian-Russian relations, the prime ministers of the two countries reached a better understanding during bilateral talks. For example, Marchuk and Chernomyrdin agreed, without much difficulty, on deliveries of energy sources to Ukraine in 1996. The journalist, writing this information in an unheated room, finds this especially pleasant to report. The prime ministers also agreed on prices and amounts and also coordinated issues connected with the transit of Turkmenian gas to Ukraine across Russian territory. Such constructiveness of the talks is not just due to Russia's good will. This year, our state managed, for the first time, to more or less keep to the schedule of current payments, and this gave Viktor Chernomyrdin an opportunity to express his satisfaction.

Ukraine also recalled that it still awaits the Russian president's visit to Kiev to finally sign the Friendship and Cooperation Agreement and, in turn, heard, not without satisfaction, that Russia is ready to resume negotiations on the division of the Black Sea Fleet.

Therefore, meetings in Moscow showed that mutual understanding can be reached. Even if it "cannot be reached," this will be said in a civilized manner and based upon certain justified positions.

Kuchma's Visit to Korea To 'Upgrade Relations'

AU1511210395 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY
in Ukrainian 14 Nov 95 p 4

[Unattributed report: "A Region of Special Interest"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Republic of Korea is a country that definitely interests Ukraine as a potential partner in practically all economic sectors. During Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz's visit to Korea in the spring of 1995, an agreement was initialed on trade and economic cooperation, after which relations in this sphere intensified considerably.

During a recent meeting between O. Moroz and Korean Ambassador to Ukraine Khan Chun Lee [name as transliterated], it became known that Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko will, in the near future, pay an official visit to the Republic of Korea. This will upgrade the Ukrainian-Korean relations. It is planned, in particular, to prepare a bilateral agreement on promotion and mutual protection of investments and other important documents.

It must be noted that, from the very beginning, relations between independent Ukraine and the Republic of Korea have not been allowed to drift on their own. An interparliamentary commission has worked successfully. A number of initiatives have already been implemented that are important and consequential for both countries.

In the economic sphere, things do not yet develop the way one would like them to. However, even the fact that the level of exports of Ukrainian goods to Korea is six times the level of Korean imports points to considerable prospects of the cooperation.

It appears that these problems will also be resolved. At the beginning of the new year, an official visit to Korea by the head of our state is planned. Perhaps, this time, our old skills to rush things will be useful and will not spoil the porridge with too much cream: Ukrainian consultants and experts together with their Korean colleagues do not just work on having all documents ready for signing during Leonid Kuchma's visit, but also want them to start "working" immediately after they are signed by the presidents of the two countries.

Kuchma Meets Vietnamese Envoy, Accepts Invitation

WS1611103495 Kiev UKRINFORM in English
0815 GMT 16 Nov 95

[From the "Current Events" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On November 14 President Leonid Kuchma met in Kiev with Vietnamese Ambassador to Ukraine Truong Tung at the latter's request. The Vietnamese diplomat conveyed to Mr. Kuchma an invitation from his Vietnamese counterpart to pay an official visit to Vietnam, which invitation was gratefully accepted. The Vietnamese Ambassador informed the Ukrainian President about the current social and economic situation in Vietnam, which is the world's third largest rice exporter. During the very friendly talk the two officials voiced their firm hope for President Kuchma's future visit to Vietnam to become a major step toward promoting friendship and cooperation between Ukraine and Vietnam.

Talks With Cuban Delegation Focus on Trade Relations

WS1611103295 Kiev UKRINFORM in English
0812 GMT 15 Nov 95

[From the "Current Events" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On Tuesday, November 14 Ukrainian-Cuban consultations started in Kiev involving a mixed intergovernmental committee which was set up with a view of promoting Cuban-Ukrainian trade and economic relations. The committee's session was co-chaired by Ukrainian Deputy Minister for Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Ihor Podolev and Cuba's First Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade Herman Amado-Blanco Fernandez. The two-day session's objective was stated as an in-depth analysis of the present status of Ukrainian-Cuban economic, technical, and trade cooperation and holding bilateral consultations in a bid to further mutual trade, investments, as well as cooperation between the two nations in such areas, as engineering transportation, electronics, power industry, banking and health care. The Cuban-Ukrainian consultations are expected to result in a summarizing protocol slated for signing on November 15.

Kiev Hails Croatia-E. Slavonia Agreement

LD1511173295 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1346 GMT 15 Nov 95

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, Nov 15 (Interfax-Ukraine) — The Ukrainian foreign ministry has issued a statement hailing an agreement on the reincorporation of Eastern Slavonia into Croatia signed by the presidents of Serbia and Croatia at Dayton, the United States, on November 12.

The ministry spoke of seeing it as a large stride increasing the chances of comprehensive settlement in former Yugoslavia.

The statement calls on both Serbia and Croatia to do their utmost to make the latest accords stick.

Kiev is also hopeful that the constructive stand and practical steps taken by the Serb leadership will eventually lead to the lifting of U.N. sanctions against Belgrade.

Presidentail Aide Claims CFE Commitments Met

LD1511190195 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1639 GMT 15 Nov 95

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, November 15 (Interfax-Ukraine) — November 16 is the deadline by which Ukraine is expected to fulfil her commitments under the Agreement on Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE).

Ukraine had met her CFE commitments by October 31, when the last tank to be scrapped within the frameworks of the CFE Agreement was cut apart at the Darnytsia tank repair works.

Under the CFE, Ukraine has scrapped a total of 1974 tanks, 1551 combat armored vehicles and 550 war planes.

Vadim Grechaninov, presidential assistant in charge of military issues, told "IF-U" in Donetsk that, as a result of fulfillment of the Agreement, Ukraine has now not more than 4080 tanks, 5050 combat armored vehicles and 4040 artillery pieces with a caliber of over 100 mm, "much less" than 1050 war planes and "much less" than 330 strike helicopters.

But, according to V. Grechaninov, the so-called flank problems caused in a large measure by "hitches" in the Ukrainian-Russian relations remain outstanding.

"I mean Russia's troops stationed in Crimea", V. Grechaninov disclosed. According to him, "this problem is yet being gradually resolved".

At the same time, V. Grechaninov said that, to his knowledge, the treaty on reduction of conventional arms "is likely to be prolonged". Early in 1996, he said, the signatories to the Treaty are to hold a conference to discuss, among other things, such a possibility.

The announcement by Ukraine's Foreign Ministry issued today says that the CFE commitments have been met by all NATO member-countries as well as Hungary, Poland, Romania, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Ukraine. The Russian Federation and Belarus have also met their commitments, but not to a full extent.

Meanwhile, Ukraine has not yet met her additional commitments as regards conventional arms cuts. As "IF-U" was earlier told by Volodymyr Belashov, head of the administration for control over weapons and disarmament of Ukraine's Foreign Ministry, a cut back in weapons and the equipment of coastal troops and marines of the BSF [Black Sea Fleet], stationed in Ukraine's territory and to be reduced in keeping with the statement of the Soviet Government of June 14, 1991, and the corresponding protocol of the Tashkent agreement of May 15, 1992, can be implemented after the splitting of the ground forces of the Black Sea Fleet.

The strength of the forces, which Ukraine has committed herself to cut additionally, includes 271 tanks, 749 combat armored vehicles, 208 ordnance systems of the 100 mm caliber and over.

"In the spring 1994, Ukraine proposed to Russia that this problem be settled so that the two countries could properly abide by their CFE commitments", the diplomat reminded.

World Bank Concerned Over Agriculture Law

WS1511135695 Kiev INTELNEWS in English
0102 GMT 15 Nov 95

[By Ed Zwirn and Oleksiy Rokachuk, "Special to INTELNEWS"]

[Transcribed Text] Kiev, Nov. 14 — The World Bank and other international financial organizations took a firm stance against a Parliament law which would have adversely affected privatization of 4,270 enterprises of Ukraine's agricultural complex.

The outcry against the law, which was passed Oct. 5, included a warning that some USD 720 million in investments and credits from the bank would be jeopardized unless it was rescinded, according to a report by the Greek newspaper Ikonomiki Katimerini.

While a report from the International Finance Corporation indicated that the law was vetoed by President Leonid Kuchma on Nov. 4, officials in the presidential administration are refusing to confirm whether this occurred, and top parliamentary leaders said they know nothing of any Kuchma veto and consider the measure in force.

According to the law, non-state agricultural enterprises — peasant communes, collective communes, collective farms, cooperative communes and private farms — will receive for free a 51 percent share in food-processing enterprises to be privatized by the state.

A World Bank official in Kiev refusing to be identified confirmed the Greek newspaper report that a senior official of the organization sent a letter to Deputy Prime Minister Igor Mityukov expressing concern over this and other recent moves by Parliament to restrict privatization.

"The World Bank never writes letters in which it threatens," said the official, adding, however, that the agricultural law would render useless much of the aid and investment being offered Ukraine by the world community.

It was with this in mind, according to the official, that the World Bank letter to Mityukov, who functions as the bank's Ukrainian governor, was written.

"There are these issues, and we need to know the future of these programs," said the official. "If you plan swimming lessons there must be water in the pond...If there is no reform there can't be financing."

Meanwhile, the status of the law itself remains uncertain, with presidential agricultural adviser Yuriy Karasyk refusing to say whether the veto was issued by Kuchma and Parliament Speaker Oleksandr Moroz saying that the 10-day deadline for a veto would have passed by now.

Michael Cully, large-scale privatization project manager for the IFC, said, however, that he had seen an unsigned copy of the veto and was given to understand that it had already been issued.

Cully confirmed reports of the intense dissatisfaction on the part of international donor organizations towards the law, saying that both his organization and the United States Agency for International Development lobbied Kuchma directly for its repeal.

As to the timing question, Cully pointed out that this would not have been an insurmountable hurdle.

"The rule is that it's 10 days from the day that the president's administration receives and time stamps the law," he said.

Others are far from certain whether the law was vetoed.

"The veto was discussed and probably issued by the presidential administration, but no document has emerged," said the World Bank official. "You draw your own conclusions."

Guarantees for Investors Discussed With World Bank

WS1511141495 Lvov INFOBANK in English 0811 GMT 15 Nov 95

[From the "News Service" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to information provided to an INFOBANK correspondent by Eduard Skryl, the head of the Administration of Contacts with International Organizations of the Ukrainian Finance Ministry, the World Bank, in conjunction with the Ukrainian government, is drawing up a plan to insure foreign and domestic investors against political and economic risks in the Ukrainian market. Among the abovementioned risks, Mr. Skryl specified the following:

— inconvertibility of domestic currency and impossibility to conduct hard-currency transfers;

— annulment of licenses and cancellation of limits on import and export transactions;

— increase in export and import taxes;

— confiscation of goods; commercial obstacles;

— change of route for goods transportation due to various unforeseen circumstances, which leads to the increase of transportation or insurance taxes on these goods.

In addition, the possibility of risks is increased due to the fact that the Ukrainian government frequently backdates its decisions; this contradicts the internationally-accepted rule that law does not have a retrospective nature.

According to Eduard Skryl, a final decision regarding the establishment of the Pre-Export Guarantee Fund is expected to be reached during talks between the Ukrainian government and the World Bank on December 15. Mr. Skryl believes that the setting-up of this Fund will offer Ukraine several advantages. Firstly, the issuing of insurance polices will yield from $5,000,000 to $6,000,000 in annual profit. Secondly, it will encourage foreign investors; and thirdly, this will further stimulate investments in agriculture. Fourthly, the World Bank is ready to provide Ukraine with an interest-free loan for the period of seventeen years in order to compensate the investor for his losses if he becomes the victim of one of the above-mentioned risks.

Expert Discusses Ukraine's Interests in Balkans

WS1511152595 Kiev VSEUKRAINSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 10 Nov 95 p 3

[Article by Professor Ihor Bynko, political expert: "What Is Ukraine Looking For in the Balkans? Bulgaria, Serbia, and Slovakia May Join a Pro-Russian Military-Political Union"]

[FBIS Translated Text] *Among military conflicts which have erupted on the European continent after the end of the confrontation between the two opposing socio-political systems, the war in former Yugoslavia holds a particular place. In terms of its scale, the number and quality of weapons used, as well as casualties and destruction, this crisis eclipses all other "hot spots," and can perhaps only be compared with the Chechen war.*

In 1993, fulfilling its international commitments, Ukraine sent a peacekeeping contingent to the conflict zone. In October 1995, another rotation of the personnel from two Ukrainian peacekeeping battalions took place, and military observers and other experts representing our country in former Yugoslavia were replaced. The involvement of Ukrainian servicemen in peacekeeping operations conducted in the zone of the Yugoslav conflict naturally raises the issue of Ukraine's interests it this apparently remote region.

At first glance, these interest are quite vague, and are usually explained by routine remarks such as "humanism" and "collective security." This approach, however, does not reflect the actual situation. In addition to the consolidation of its role in the European international arena and the protection of ethnic Ukrainians living in the conflict zone, Ukraine has other interests as well, the most important ones being the prevention of a new division of Europe into spheres of military-political influence and ensuring the free operation of the Danube steamship company.

As a matter of fact, the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina has currently become an arena for a clash between the interests of the world's leading states, primarily the United States and the Russian Federation. NATO's air raids on the Bosnian Serb positions and the subsequent harsh statements by Russian President Boris Yeltsin have already brought Europe to the brink of a new division into two polar blocs and a transition from the "cold peace" to a "cold war." The geopolitical location of Ukraine, which may end up between the two blocs, is becoming the primary threat to its national security.

The suspension of the normal navigation of ships on the Danube, as a result of the economic sanctions imposed by the international community against Serbia, is an important problem for our country. The paralysis of the Danube steamship company results in huge losses counted in millions of dollars annually.

It is therefore understandable that Ukraine is extremely interested in a peaceful settlement of the conflict by reaching a compromise among all involved sides. This means that Ukraine cannot remain indifferent to the Balkan events, given the increasing tendency to resolve the Bosnian problem mainly by the use of force. As it is, the method of resolving this conflict and its result may have serious geopolitical and economic consequences for our country. What may be the outcome of the Balkan war?

A military victory of the Bosnian Serbs may bring about the revival of "Greater Serbia" within the current boundaries of Serbia, the Serb Republic in Bosnia, and the Serb Republic in Croatia. Given Russia's traditional friendliness with the Serbs, one can quite confidently forecast that Russia's influence in the Balkans will dramatically increase. This, along with the Russian leadership's plans to deploy another 12,000-15,000 peacekeepers in this region, will create preconditions for the expansion of a military-political union, which is currently being established by the Russian Federation, Serbia, Bulgaria, and even Slovakia — whose leadership is already demonstrating a quite clear inclination toward Russia. For Ukraine, this will mean a compact pro-Russian environment contributing to our country's isolation from the rest of the world. Additionally, Russia will have a possibility to directly control the Danube, meaning the operation of the Danube steamship company, which will eventually damage Ukraine's economic interests.

There is another method of resolving the Balkan problem, however. The implementation of the Western plan for settling the conflict, or more precisely a fair division of Bosnia and Herzegovina among the Serbs, Croats, and Muslims, is opening a realistic path toward reaching a compromise among the sides without giving priority to one of them. A stable balance of forces will make it possible to ensure the permanent presence of the United States, Russia, Germany, and other interested countries in the Balkans, which, in particular, will make it possible to avoid both Ukraine's isolation and other detriments to its interests. This is exactly why, having resolutely voiced its opposition to the use of military force, Ukraine is not going assist any side on a preferential basis, and has an equal attitude toward all of them. As a matter of fact, this is a conceptual basis of its stance on the Bosnian conflict and a foundation for coordinating its policy on this issue with the Russian Federation. The further maintenance of this tactic will contribute to the protection of Ukrainian interests in the Balkans.

Dilemma Arises Over Use of Former Nuclear Storage

MM1611090695 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 13 Nov 95

[From the "Vremya" newscast: Video report from Ivano-Frankovsk Oblast's former top-secret Soviet base used to store nuclear warheads by Natalya Kondratyuk, identified by caption]

[FBIS Translated Text] [182440] [Kondratyuk over aerial view of Carpathian mountains] In 1953, on the instructions and under the personal supervision of Lavrentiy Beriya, "Facility-S" — a base for storing Soviet nuclear munitions — was built in the Carpathian mountains. The degree of secrecy was such that it was built solely by people sentenced to death by firing squad. According to the most conservative estimates, there were 20,000 of them. The base occupied an area of 1,500 hectares. A local village was simply moved elsewhere. A total of 36 villages were relocated in the fifties in Ivano-Frankovsk Oblast. Military installations similar to this one were built on their sites. Nuclear warheads were stored deep inside mountains, in tunnels such as this one. It is 2 km long and has autonomous power supply and protection systems.

Under the START I treaty Ukraine removed all nuclear munitions from here several years ago. Now it simply does not know what to do with this massive Soviet heritage. Using the underground storehouse as a storage facility for the local military unit is expensive. Furthermore, the oblast authorities are asking the military to return part of the land so former villages can be restored. According to Valeriy Shmarov, Ukrainian defense minister, the ministry will seek to meet their request. The stance of the minister, a civilian, does not always find a positive response among military cadres. However, market conditions, which affect the army just like the rest of the people, are forcing it to seek rational forms of management.

This also applies to the Shipkinskaya RLS [radar station] — a missile-attack warning system. It is located on Ukrainian territory but is operating for the benefit of Russia. So far Kiev provides the money for its operation. However, Valeriy Shmarov noted that this problem will probably be resolved during his meeting with Pavel Grachev in Sochi at the end of November.

Natalya Kondratyuk, Yuriy Muravyev reporting for ORT from the Carpathians. [182616] [video shows aerial view of area, perimeter fence, watch tower, tunnel, surface-to-air missile systems, interior of radar station]

National Affairs

Kuchma May Call Referendum on Draft Constitution

LD1511185295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1639 GMT 15 Nov 95

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, November 15 (Interfax-Ukraine) — Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma said that he would call a national referendum on the draft new Constitution, "if Verkhovna Rada drags out the process of adoption of the Constitution, as it did in the case of adoption of the Law of Power."

Addressing a meeting in Kiev Wednesday with representatives of parliamentary groups, the President expressed conviction that Parliament would not be able to adopt the draft Constitution by a constitutional majority. Therefore, the President believes, Parliament shall adopt the Constitution by a simple majority and turn it over for national approval.

"If Verkhovna Rada does not accept this decision, the President, according to the Constitutional Accord, is entitled to call a referendum on this issue", Leonid Kuchma stressed. This is the "sole civilized, legal procedure for examination and adoption of the new Constitution", he added.

President Kuchma told deputies that at the request of Parliament Speaker Oleksandr Moroz, the date for the examination of the new Fundamental Law at a Constitutional committee meeting had been put off for November 23: Previously, the President gave the date of November 20.

The Ukrainian President expressed confidence that the Constitutional committee "in a composition it is today is capable of carrying by a majority vote the draft and tabling it at Verkhovna Rada". Then Kuchma's meeting with representatives of parliamentary groups continued behind closed doors.

Present at the meeting with the President are leaders and representatives of practically all parliamentary groups, an "IF-U" correspondent reported. According to Leonid Kuchma, the meeting is necessary to discuss mutual relations between the legislative and executive branches of power.

Premier Blocks Possible No-Confidence Vote on Shpek

WS1511135595 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0102 GMT 15 Nov 95

[Report by Oksana Hasiuk]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Nov. 14 — Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk seemed to exert his influence in Parliament once again on Tuesday [14 November] when he asked deputies to refrain from voting no confidence in Roman Shpek, deputy prime minister for economic issues.

Shpek was in the Rada [parliament] delivering a report for the legislature's government day.

Marchuk said he asked that deputies not set a precedent for removing Cabinet of Ministers members.

"Parliament just approved the government program, and it must give the government one year to realise the program in compliance with the Constitutional Agreement," the prime minister said.

Deputy Stepan Khmara, leader of the Ukrainian Republican Party, demanded inclusion of the no-confidence vote on Shpek into Parliament's agenda.

Deputy Parliament Speaker Oleh Diomin said that according to parliamentary regulations, Parliament can vote no-confidence in some Cabinet members, but the initiator of the vote should voice his dissatisfaction with that official's personal failures, not with the failures of the entire Cabinet.

According to Khmara, "Shpek is incapable of dealing with his job."

After Marchuk's appeal, deputies voted down include of the no-confidence measure. Leftists supported the idea enthusiastically, however.

When the dust had settled, Shpek delivered his report detailing how Ukraine spent its foreign credits.

According to Shpek, the International Monetary Fund aid was used for financial-credit stabilization and World Bank credits were applied to budget support and reforming different economic sectors.

Shpek said that Ukraine received a total of US$ 3.151 billion this year. As of Nov. 1, according to Shpek, US$ 1.83 billion was allocated to different branches of Ukrainian industry and businesses.

The credits were offered, according to Shpek, by the European Union, Germany, Italy, France, Switzerland and the United States.

Agriculture, Shpek said, has received 49.3 percent of the total amount of the credits — US$ 904 million. Shpek also reported on a U.S. government credit to support Ukraine's energy industry and World Bank credits to modernize hydro-electric plants.

Shpek, who also heads the Cabinet's currency-credit council that deals with foreign credits, said Ukraine is treated as very trustworthy regarding its commitment to repay foreign credits.

But, according to the minister, the external debt of Ukraine increased this year. Shpek said in 1997 Ukraine will not manage to overcome an unfavorable balance of trade with foreign countries.

Tabachnik Comments on Veto of Presidential Decrees

LD1511165495 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1350 GMT 15 Nov 95

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, Nov 15 (Interfax-Ukraine) — Ukraine does not have a legal procedure for parliament to use the power of veto on presidential decrees, Dmytro Tabachnik, Presidential Administration Chief, said commenting on Verkhovna Rada's vetoing of President's local administrations decree.

Addressing on Wednesday a briefing at the Presidential Headquarters, he explained that the parliamentary veto shall take effect only after a corresponding application is lodged to the Constitutional Court, which has yet to be formed in Ukraine.

D. Tabachnik has described the parliamentary veto on the presidential decree on the establishment of local administrations as an "attempt designed to paralyze activities by the executive authority in Ukraine". "Not only heads of local administrations, but also city mayors in all Ukrainian regions have expressed their disagreement with that decision of the Parliament", he disclosed.

Presidential Headquarters Chief expressed the view that the arguments put forward by the parliamentary committee for state building, activities of councils and local self-administrations, who recommended that parliament veto the decree, "are of a political rather than a legal character".

In examining the issues pertaining to the use of the power of veto on decrees issued by the President of the country, the Parliament "always ignores" requests from the executive authority to heed the President's arguments, D. Tabachnik said.

Supreme Council By-Election Fields 382 Candidates

LD1511194695 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian
1600 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — A total of 382 candidates will compete in 45 constituencies in a Supreme Council by-election on 12 December, Ivan Yemets, head of the Central Electoral Commission told a news conference on 15 November.

Seventy-four candidates belong to political parties, including 38 from the Communist Party, 15 from the Christian Democratic Party, 13 from the Socialist Party, and 12 from Rukh [the People's Movement of Ukraine]. The Communist Party fielded candidates in 12 of Ukraine's regions, the Socialist Party in six, while Rukh and the Christian Democrats in two. Seventy-one percent of the candidates are Ukrainian and 24 percent Russian. Women make up 7 percent. Ninety-two percent have a university degree.

Yemets added that every fifth candidate was an entrepreneur and every 20th a member of the media.

New Political Organization 'We' To Enter Elections

WS1611104795 Kiev INTELNEWS in English
0026 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Nov. 14 — One of Ukraine's newest political associations, We, announced its entrance into the Dec. 10 parliamentary elections, Serhiy Sobolev, coordinator of the Reforms parliamentary faction, said.

The new association is supported by the Reforms faction. The press conference announcing We's entrance was organized by the Ukrainian Perspective Fund.

Sobolev said that the We association will slate 21 candidates among the 45 currently vacant Rada districts.

"Reforms support the We association because We members have proven their ability to achieve success and have political experience," Sobolev said.

According to the Reforms coordinator, each We member has taken part in preparing a number of bills and state programs. Sobolev said they are professionals in different fields: business, academics, medicine, journalism and political science.

Justice Minister Serhiy Holovatiy, another Reforms member, said that if elected, every We association member will join Reforms and strengthen the centrist influence in Parliament.

The strengthening of centrist forces would turn legislation into a constructive force for society and would guarantee passage of a new democratic constitution, Holovatiy said.

Ukrainian Perspective Fund Vice President Mykola Tomenko, a We member, said that the We association stands for order in the state and a cessation of confrontations between the executive and legislative branches through a clear delineation of powers. He said that We believed in the creation of an independent court as a defender of human rights against criminals and the state. The We association, Tomenko said, also wanted to see production increases prompted by tax reduction and a stabilized financial and privatization system.

New Right-of-Center Political Party Planned

LD1511150395 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — A constituent congress of a new political party which is to be set up on the basis of the Labor Congress of Ukraine, the Party of Democratic Revival of Ukraine [PDRU], and some deputies of the "Reform" parliamentary grouping, will be held at the beginning of next year, PDRU leader Volodymyr Filenko has told UNIAN.

Filenko said the program of the future party will be based on the principles of social-liberalism.

Filenko believes the idea of "social-liberalism is not more paradoxical than existing Ukrainian society, which is trying to turn socialism into capitalism." In these conditions, he said, a party of a social-democratic orientation should defend the values of liberalism, namely to support a liberal taxation policy, private ownership of land, and further denationalization. All this will be reflected in the party's economic program.

Meanwhile, the future party has no intention of letting procommunist forces monopolizing the social protection of the population.

Filenko defined the party's place in the political spectrum as being right-of-center. According to Filenko, the party has not yet been given any name.

Crimean Deputy Views Official Policy Toward Tatars

WS1511144895 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 4 Nov 95 pp 1,3

[Interview with Nadir Bekirov, deputy to the Crimean Supreme Soviet and member of the Crimean Tatar People's Majlis, by Volodymyr Prytula; place and date not given: "Crimean Supreme Soviet Deputy Nadir Bekirov: 'It Is Necessary To Find a Balance Between the Interests of the Ukrainian State and the Crimean Tatars'" — first paragraph is MOLOD UKRAYINY introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] **The Crimean Tatar problem is still one the most difficult ones for our young state. Unfortunately, not everybody understands its importance both in Kiev, and what is more important — in Simferopol — where Tatarphobia is raging as rampantly as Ukrainephobia. Nevertheless, as believes Nadir Bekirov, deputy chief of the Kurultay faction in the Crimean Autonomous Republic Supreme Soviet and member of the Crimean Tatar People's Majlis, the Ukrainian leadership has recently been paying increasingly more attention to Crimean Tatars:**

[Bekirov] Many bodies of state authority and a considerable part of government members who hold top offices in the capital indeed understand the problems of Crimean Tatars, including the political ones, which was demonstrated best in the well-known Resolution No. 636 issued by the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers on 11 August 1995. However, the other part of the Ukrainian state leadership, including the parliamentary majority in the Supreme Council, does not understand them correctly. This is very sad, because among other methods of political battle and work, we give priority to the methods of conducting dialogue and searching for a mutual understanding and decisions that would satisfied both sides. If we are denied the right to hold a dialogue, have our interests taken into account, and directly participate in resolving issues concerning our interests, this unintentionally drives us into a dead end. One can expect anything from people who are thus driven, and one should not feel offended in such a case.

[Prytula] **Mr. Bekirov, at the initiative of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe [OSCE], a roundtable has recently been held in Crimea. Will it contribute to a better understanding of the Crimean Tatar problem by officials from Simferopol and Kiev?**

[Bekirov] I am afraid of making any forecasts because the previous OSCE roundtable in Locarno (Switzerland) on relations between the Republic of Crimea and Ukraine produced very equivocal results and, as I believe, its conclusions somewhat complicated the normal process of regulating the Crimean Autonomous Republic's status within Ukraine. As a participant in the roundtable held in Yalta, which was specially devoted to the reintegration of deported people, I can say that the discussion was very substantial and interesting. Virtually all the participants had an opportunity to express their opinions, including those which do not fall in line with the opinions of the majority of people. The debate was very open, despite the official status of certain people. A great deal of factual information was presented. It is hard to say, however, what conclusions experts will draw. I hope the recommendations presented by the OSCE will be constructive and took into account both the interests of Ukraine and the legitimate interests of the deported Crimean Tatar people. If we manage to find a balanced approach to these problems, and if the Ukrainian leadership listen to these recommendations, this would perhaps become a fundamental step in the process of establishing the Ukrainian democratic state and resolving the difficult problem of restoring the rights of the deported people. Plus, this could produce a third very important result — a precedent for a peaceful, legal, well-considered, and scientifically grounded resolution of one of the most difficult interethnic problems of a new state which recently arose out of the rubble of the former USSR. This would become an important precedent both in the CIS and, perhaps, Europe. I would like this to happen, though it is hard to say what will actually take place.

[Prytula] **The Ukrainian president has recently stated that at one of the next meetings of CIS state leaders he is going to come forward with a proposal to make a coordinated decision on joint financing of programs for returning deported peoples. How do you assess this fact, and to what degree is it realistic that CIS states will respond to this appeal?**

[Bekirov] Unfortunately, we have had only negative experience in this regard. I know of the negative official stance of the Kazakh leadership. I know that until recently the Uzbek leadership stood aloof from these issues, though the decades-long work of Crimean Tatars was a significant contribution to this country's national economy. I do not want to cast an evil spell, but apparently something has recently begun changing. Of course, it is very important that the state leader assume the responsibility for the initiative in resolving this problem at the international level. This initiative was enhanced by a recent meeting among state officials from Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia devoted to issues of migration, refugees, and repatriation. A special group in charge of issues concerning deported peoples attended the meeting, and it develop a definition of a deported population which could be used within the CIS. In the conclusions presented by this working group, which were later approved at a plenary meeting, it was said that this problem concerns not only Ukraine, but also the entire CIS, or even further — the international, or at least European, community. As it is, the consequences of these processes affect the fate of the entire Europe continent, and Ukraine is unable to bear the entire burden of this problem, primarily the financial one. I expect that united efforts based on the Ukrainian president's initiative, the initial consultations held at this meeting, and the OSCE's stance on the participation of the European community will make it possible to achieve a breakthrough on this issue. As for a moral breakthrough, I think it has already taken place because if a state leader publicly states that such a problem exists and invites other states to participate in resolving this problem — this means that the problem is no longer latent, that it has been put on the agenda of the official Ukrainian state policy. This is extremely important.

[Prytula] **Let us return to the roundtable held in Yalta. During a news conference devoted to this meeting, OSCE High Commissioner Max van der Stoel said that he was going to appeal to the leaders of Western countries for the required assistance for Crimea's deported peoples. How do you assess current Western assistance?**

[Bekirov] Undoubtedly, the main channel of financial and material support for the process of repatriating and settling deported people comes primarily from the Ukrainian state budget. Although it is completely inefficient, this is the only purposeful source of financing. Another channel is a UN program which is just being developed, because negotiations are being held with donor- states, and the process of collecting money is under way. As far as I know, the largest donor is Italy, which contributed $500,000 to this program. As for Turkish President Suleyman Demirel's promises to build 1,000 apartments for Crimean Tatars, they are still at the organizational stage of developing projects and searching for mechanisms of financing them. Additionally, the Dutch Government is providing substantial assistance in the implementation of certain cultural programs which are undoubtedly weaved into the general process of repatriating and settling the Crimean Tatar people. It is currently hard to assess how the situation will develop. The example of the Netherlands, however, has shown that even a small state paying serious attention to issues concerning human rights and interethnic and intercultural dialogue is able to provide tangible assistance. I hope this initiative will be supported by OSCE countries and the Council of Europe — which, to our delight, Ukraine is successfully joining — and, of course, CIS countries.

[Prytula] **Certain Crimean newspapers sometimes claim that Ukraine acts unreasonably by allowing Crimean Tatars to return to Crimea on such a large scale and without control, and it would be more logical for it to somewhat slow down the influx of Crimean Tatars until the economic situation in Crimea and Ukraine as a whole is stabilized.**

[Bekirov] One must single out to two different points here. I agree that first it is necessary to settle those who have already returned because the majority of Crimean Tatars who live in unbearable conditions in their homeland represent an urgent problem. As for the second point — the state's attitude toward the repatriation process — this is a human rights issue. Those who recommend Ukraine to suspend the repatriation process and wait for changes in the socioeconomic conditions, involuntarily (though I suspect that this is done deliberately) infringe on a number of human rights, starting with the formal right to freedom of travel and ending with the right to restore historic justice for persecuted people. I understand that there can be different political opinions and principles of political necessity, but at the end of the 20th century to recommend the leadership of any state to conduct a large- scale campaign of restricting human rights is barbarianism which does not deserve any comments, in my opinion. In general, I am convinced that the state leadership does not listen to such "advise," because taking into account a quite vast circle of Ukraine's state and political institutions and officials, the level of their understanding of the need to restore the rights of the Crimean Tatar people and the level of Ukraine's responsibility as a new independent state for the protection of their rights are increasing, though very slowly. This refers to both the public and, what is particularly important, the official leadership. This is a very important trend which raises hopes, and I expect — I am even convinced — that it will continue.

Miners Strike Only Affects 10 Percent of Industry

WS1511135195 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0102 GMT 15 Nov 95

[By Natalia Petiakh, Oleksandr Shtolko and Olha Burda, "Special to INTELNEWS"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Nov. 14 — The strike that threatens to cripple Ukraine's coal mines has so far affected only about 10 percent of the industry, leaders of the Ukrainian Independent Miners Trade Union said Tuesday [14 November].

Meanwhile, according to National Bank of Ukraine Governor Viktor Yushchenko, the country's top officials were to meet throughout the night Tuesday to figure out a way to pay off some KBV20 trillion (US$ 11 million) owed miners in back pay.

Yushchenko said Tuesday [14 November] that he and members of the Cabinet of Ministers would reach a final official decision on the allocation of the money by Wednesday.

Yushchenko, however, refused to specify the amount of money to be approved at the Wednesday Cabinet meeting.

On Tuesday, starting with the second shift, workers at 25 UIMTU mines walked off the job, less than half of the union's 64 branches and under 10 percent of the nation's 256 mines.

According to UIMTU deputy head Volodymyr Synychych, four mines of ChervonoarmiyskVuhyllia company are on strike.

Seven Donetsk mines — Hlyboka, Zhovtneva (October), Kuybyshevska, Panfilovska, Pravda, Horkoho and Zirka (Star) as well as four mines of KrasnodonVuhillia — Palenina, Baranova, Talovska and Piadysiat rokiv SSSR (50 Years of the USSR) — also joined the action.

Five mines of DobropolVuhillia — Biletska, Chervonoarmiyska (Red Army), Stakhanivska, Holubovska and Lysychanska — supported the strike, as did three mines of the Yenakievo company — Poltavska, Yenakievska and Yuniy Komunar (Young Communards) and Antratsyt and Chervoniy Partizan (Red Partisan).

Most of the PavlohradVuhillia mines and two mines of the ZakhidVuhillia company are also participating.

In a related development, the First Ukrainian Student Trade Union POSTUP announced Tuesday that they intend to stage an action of solidarity with the miners.

According to Oleksiy Kliashtorniy, one of the POSTUP leaders, the students will picket the Coal Ministry building on Wednesday.

Belarus

Russian Deputy Premier's Visit Postponed

WS1511155195 Minsk BELAPAN in English
1520 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to information received, the visit of a Russian government delegation led by the first deputy prime minister Oleg Soskovets, which was scheduled for November 16-17, will be adjourned at the request of the Russian party. The exact date of the visit will be fixed later, but, according to the Russian government press-office, there can be no doubt that this visit will take place. It is likely that the Russian delegation will arrive in Minsk after November 20.

Lukashenka Foresees Battle for Parliament Leader Post

LD1511195695 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1728 GMT 15 Nov 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Alyaksandr Lukashenka has described corruption charges a local newspaper brought against former Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich on Saturday [11 November] as marking the start of a battle for the job of speaker of a new parliament yet to be formed.

In a speech to the meeting of leaders of CIS state TV and radio broadcasting companies on Wednesday, Lukashenka said that while in charge of the parliamentary anti-corruption commission two years ago, he himself looked in the legitimacy of government security guarantees Kebich had issued in exchange for a large foreign loan.

He said that the matter should crop up ahead of renewed general elections was the result of political intrigues by those who are opposed to Kebich's comeback into big politics as speaker of the new parliament.

Kebich, now in charge of the trade and finance union, is widely believed to be the strongest candidate for the post.

Kebich himself speaking after a televised interview with one of the prosecutors described it as a political shootout of yet another candidate for parliamentary leadership. IF NOTE: In May 1994, the then prime minister handed over free of charge a total of 32 promissory bills at the cost of $1.1 billion to the female interpreter of an unspecified Yugoslav construction firm committing the finance ministry to repay the sum to their holder between May 20, 1999 and May 20, 2004. Mineral resources, oil and timber were set aside as collateral costing twice as much as the government security. The bills fell into the hands of members of an international criminal ring specializing in fraudulent acquisition of property, now on trial in Britain.

Kebich described the scandal as rampage of political slandering saying it had helped to get rid of other candidates for the post of parliamentary speaker such Mechyslaw Hryb, leader of the trade unions federation Vladimir Goncharik and chairman of the controlling chamber Vasiliy Sakovich. He said other victims would follow as soon as the new parliament was elected.

On charges of corruption against himself, Kebich said the allegation was nothing but a manifestation of economic illiteracy by those who launched the campaign. He denied endorsing any bills saying the finance ministry or the national bank were alone entitled to do so.

The photograph of one such bill carried by the mentioned newspaper was a usual letter of credit issued by the cabinet planning to get a $50 million credit from a British bank. However, the loan was not made available and therefore there was no need to redeem it, Kebich said.

He denied trying to mortgage the country and threatened to bring a defamation suit against the Narodnaya Gazeta newspaper and the author of the article "claiming a sum of $1.1 billion in jest."

IMF Officials Discuss Stand-By Credits

WS1611100595 Minsk BELAPAN in English
0815 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On November 14 the head of a delegation of the External Relations Department of the International Monetary Fund, Mr Robert Rassel; a member of the delegation, Mr Paul Falcone; and the Resident Representative of the IMF in Belarus, Mr Istvan Szalkai held a concluding press conference on the completion of the IMF delegation's visit to Belarus. According to Mr Rassel, economic stabilisation in the countries with economies in transition is associated with deceleration of inflation. An average inflation rate in 26 countries with economies in transition was 700 percent in 1993, 200 percent in 1994, 50 percent in 1995. An average inflation rate in these countries in 1996 is estimated at 20 percent. The head of the IMF delegation cited the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland as positive examples. For instance, the Czech government has done a lot for the stimulation of employment in the private sector. For this purpose a system for personnel training and retraining was created. As a result, in spite of intensive actions on the structural reconstruction of the economy, unemployment in the Czech Republic was less than 3.5 percent.

Hungary achieved the greatest success in the attraction of foreign investments. Poland got good results in the pace of rise in output. Next year its GDP is expected to amount to the indicator of 1987. Mr Szalkai pointed out that in view of an agreement about second tranche purchases under a stand-by arrangement IMF experts would visit Belarus on a regular basis. The main objective of the past visit, according to him, was the assessment of the economic situation in the third quarter of this year and the discussion of the Belarusian government's actions next year. The Republican budget estimates and budget deficit for 1996 were at the centre of attention. Mr Szalkai, who was appointed as IMF Resident Representative in Belarus not long ago, said that he had been much impressed by the Belarusian government's actions, thanks to which inflation declined from 40 percent at the beginning of this year to 3 percent in October. Throughout this period the Belarusian ruble exchange rate remained almost unchangeable, and budget deficit was maintained on a level even lower than specified in the joint programme. Nevertheless, the parties have not yet reached an agreement as regards budget deficit and the content of structural transformations in 1996. After the IMF mission left Belarus, the IMF Office in Belarus will continue negotiations with the Belarusian government. On November 15 the IMF mission started to work in Moscow.

Few Military Candidates Contesting National Elections

MM1611122195 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Valeriy Kovalev under the "Regional News" rubric: "Belarusian Military Want To Get Into Parliament Too"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Minsk — Belarusian Armed Forces representatives intend to contest deputies' seats in the repeat republic Supreme Council elections which will take place 29 November. There are not many of them — only 17 out of over 900 candidates for 141 vacant parliamentary seats.

One general, seven colonels, six lieutenant colonels, and a major, warrant officer, and civilian employee have agreed to try their luck in the election race. Incidentally, in the spring elections not one of the 32 candidates from the Belarusian Armed Forces managed to become a member of parliament. Maybe the military will have more luck this time?

Moldova

Snegur, Deputies Reach 'No Compromise' on Language Issue

AU1511154595 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau 14/11/1995 [BASAPRESS] — President Mircea Snegur met yesterday a group of members of Parliament representing the Moldovan Agrarian Democratic Party [PDAM], Socialist Unity [US] and the Peasants and Intellectuals Bloc [BIT]. They discussed Snegur's legislative initiative to alter Art.13 of the Constitution.

Mikhail Sidorov, socialist representative, told BASAPRESS that at yesterday's meeting "no compromise was reached." Sidorov stressed that most of the deputies opposed a referendum on official language name. "I believe that this issue can wait until a new census is conducted. I did not propose this variant because I deem it untimely," Sidorov stated. He added that "the problem of official language name is political in nature, which makes it impossible to adopt a purely scientific variant." Sidorov continued that "the Parliament can adopt a decision by a majority of votes, but, whatever it is, it can arouse indignation on behalf of a certain section of population."

Socialist Dmitri Uzun proposed President Snegur to withdraw his initiative for the reason that "it splits the society and neither the president nor the parliament has a compromise solution right now."

Ala Mandacanu of the Peasants and Intellectuals Bloc supported the presidential initiative and opposed any referendum.

BASAPRESS learned from Valentin Dolganiuc, head of the Christian Democratic People's Front [FPCDM] faction, that "no FPCDM representative has been invited."

Parliament Passes 1996 Budget at First Reading

AU1611120095 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2030 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau 15/11/1995 — (BASAPRESS) The Moldovan Parliament approved yesterday in the first reading the draft budget for 1996 with a 3.2-percent deficit of the gross domestic product (GDP.) The deficit forecast for 1995 was 3.5 percent. Budget revenues will go up 27 percent while expenses 24 percent, Finance Minister Valeriu Chitan told Parliament. According to him, the budget deficit will be covered through issuance of 100 million lei worth of government bonds and 100 million lei worth of borrowings from the National Bank. An estimated 126.5 million lei

($28 million) of foreign loans will be used for this purpose as well. Social expenses will make up 48.4 percent of all budget expenditures, that is, 11.6 percent of GDP, which is higher than in 1995. Chitan said the consolidated budget including state and local budgets will have revenues of 2.129 billion lei and expenditures of 2.479 billion lei.

"It is abnormal that 62.5 percent of all budget revenues are drawn from indirect taxes, paid as a rule by the population," Semion Certan of the Peasants and Intellectuals Bloc, said during the debates. According to him, business taxes dropped by 32.6 percent in 1994 and by 16 percent during the first nine months of 1995. In 1996 they are forecast to make up 9 percent of all revenues.

"The Commission for Budget and Finance deems that the GDP has little chance to increase by nearly 8 percent," Gheorghe Rusu, head of the commission stated. "It is not certain what revenues will push GDP so high, given the deep economic crisis Moldova is going through, which involves capital investment decline, while loans are not always used as they should be," said Rusu.

Eugen Garla of the FPCDM [Christian-Democratic Popular Front of Moldova] stressed that year-end the state budget revisions have become frequent. He said the admissible error of such revisions will be 30 percent in 1995. According to a draft law, the 1995 budget will be rectified by 482.9 million lei at revenues and expenses. Many deputies noted that the projected deficit is oppressive for the Moldovan economy, arguing that developed countries have 4-6-percent deficits. The draft budget will be examined by MPs in the second reading.

GDP Drops 6.3 Percent Jan-Oct 1995

AU1611120295 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2030 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau 15/11/1995 (BASAPRESS) — Moldova's gross domestic product fell by 6.3 percent over the first 10 months of 1995 as compared to 1994, according to a Statistics Department monthly report. Statistics show that the industrial output decreased by 7.9 percent in January-October, while agricultural output rose by 2 percent as compared to the same period of 1994. Retail sales dropped by 6 percent. Exports stood at 2.121 billion lei ($475 million) and imports at 2.369 billion lei. The balance of trade had a negative of $53 million. CIS countries made up 60 percent of Moldova's exports and 67 percent of its imports.

Previously, government officials forecast that GDP would go up by 0.7 percent and agricultural output 10 percent in 1995, while the industrial output would drop by 10 percent. The Marketing Center of the Academy of Science forecasts that Moldova will reach the level of 1990, which preceded the crisis, by 2000.

Inflation Rate in October Reaches 2.7 Percent

AU1611081395 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 2028 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, November 14 (INFOTAG) — According to the Ministry of Economy, the rate of inflation in October was 2.7 percent, i.e. 0.1 percent greater than in the previous month.

The higher inflation was mainly due to increased tariffs for automotive and railway transportation, as well as due to an insignificant growth of prices for foodstuffs and non-food items, a Ministry official explained.

The relatively high inflation rate in September (2.6 percent) and October (2.7 percent) after the low rates in spring and summer months (March 0.7, April 0.6, May 0.4, June 0.2, July 0.2 percent) give grounds to believe that Moldova will be unable to comply with the terms of the memorandum signed with the International Monetary Fund for 1995, which stipulates that the annual rate of inflation should not exceed 10 percent.

According to the National Bank President, Leonid Talmaci, the rate of inflation in 1995 may reach 15-17 percent. "The 10 percent rate was an objective we were striving at, but in no way a dogma. Next year, we are planning to suppress the annual rate of inflation to 8-9 percent", Leonid Talmaci told your correspondent.

Dniester Peacekeeping Forces Face Financial Problems

AU1511154095 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tiraspol 14/11/1995 [BASAPRESS] — The Joint Control Commission (CMC) is facing a problem regarding financing of peacekeeping forces. The Dniester delegation said that Moldova failed to cover its share of expenses, statement denied by Moldovan representatives. According to a statement by Tiraspol representatives in the CMC, Dniester covered all expenses for financing peacekeepers, while Moldova incurred a debt of 740,550 lei as of October 1.

The same statement to the Moldovan officials and OSCE [Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe] Mission, states that Tiraspol delegation had an impression that the Moldovan delegation did not present corresponding CMC documents to the government.

Victor Catan, Moldovan co-chairman in CMC, told BASAPRESS that Moldovan leadership is regularly informed about all aspects of the CMC activity, including financing of peacekeepers. "According to Article 5, Item 2 of the Moldovan-Russian Agreement of July 21, 1992, each side finances its contingent of blue helmets, and it was respected by Moldova," Catan said. Besides, Moldova covered some expenses of the Russian peacekeeping forces.

"We have paid the debts for rent, electricity and fuel of the Russian forces located in Parata in 1992-1994, Dorotcaia since 1994 and Dubasari since 1992," said General Catan. The debts ran as high as several millions of lei. Moreover, the Tighina Police Commissariat, where the Russian headquarters is located, pays all bills for electricity, phone, etc.

Tajikistan

Russian Troops Accused of Provocations at Border

LD1611093495 Moscow NTV in Russian
1900 GMT 15 Nov 95

[Report by Boris Koltsov and Sergey Rebrov from Tajikistan; including recorded remarks by Pavel Tarasenko, commander of the group of Russian Federation border guards in Tajikistan, and Darko Silovic, head of the UN mission in Tajikistan; Silovic speaks in English with superimposed translation into Russian]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] These shots are called stabilizing fire. Salvos like this ring out on the Tajik-Afghan border in Gorno-Badakhshan at least once a day. They are intended to paralyze the activity of those planning violations on Tajik territory. The border guards' actions have become much tougher since border post No. 66 was attacked exactly a month ago, and eight servicemen inside it were killed. This incident was evidence not only of the deterioration of the situation on the border as autumn set in. It also prompted the publication in the Western press of an article that has quite seriously exacerbated relations between the Russian Federation border guards and the UN observers in Tajikistan. NEUE ZUERCHER ZEITUNG, citing a report by asserted that the incident that occurred on 10 October was provoked by the border guards. [video shows soldiers firing field weapons, armor, helicopters, and landscape]

[Tarasenko] Eight men dead: Surely Mr. Silovic understands. If he is talking about some kind of provocative actions on the part of the borders, surely he understands that we would not kill our own men!

[Correspondent] Darko Silovic, however, whom the border guards link with the accusations made against them, is also dissatisfied with the contents of the article.

[Silovic] This is a tendentious piece of journalism, but very well and skillfully written. It is written in such a way that it is unclear where quotations from the report that the UN observer mission sent in on the incident end, and where the newspaper's own conclusions begin.

[Correspondent] The head of the UN observer mission asserts that the report sent to UN headquarters contained only facts, and that there were no conclusions of a political nature in it.

[Silovic] The word provocation was not used in that report or in the private conversations the NEUE ZUERCHER ZEITUNG refers to.

[Correspondent] However, it is not ruled out that the accusations of provocations directed against the border guards are a continuation of a game that official Dushanbe and the opposition have long been playing. Previously, they used to accuse one another. Now, it seems to be the turn of the Russian Federation border guards, which, as the civil war sluggishly drags on, are becoming a pretty vulnerable political target, hindering one of the sides from getting reinforcements from a neighboring country.

[Tarasenko] Of course, we allow no opportunities for crossing the state border because we are operating primarily within the framework of the agreement existing between Russia and Tajikistan on guarding the state border.

[Silovic] They are not officially a party to the conflict, but in practice they have to do this, by virtue of the tasks they carry out and the position they occupy, whether they like it or not.

[Correspondent] Evidently, after the Russian Federation border guards have been partially drawn into the armed conflict, someone wants to drag them into the political conflict. The scenarios of provocations, like the latest one, emerge pretty far away from the border itself, as a rule, as a result of a free interpretation of what happened. The men considered to be immediately responsible for perpetrating these provocations probably do not have the slightest idea of all this. They have their task and they fulfill it as best they can, having long since ceased to distinguish between such concepts as defense of the border and war.

Opposition Forces Willing To Continue Peace Talks

LD1511173095 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1346 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 15 (INTERFAX) — The Tajik opposition said it is ready to continue peace talks and attend their next round in Ashgabat and Tehran.

In his letter to U.N. secretary-General Butrus-Butrus-Ghali, Tajik opposition leader Akbar Turadzhonzoda, one of the leaders of the Movement for the Islamic Revival of Tajikistan, said that the opposition and the leaders of Turkmenistan and Iran have reached an agreement to this effect.

He said the opposition's participation in the talks is a "compromise" and an "attempt once again to try to reach a political settlement of the situation."

Turadzhonzoda accused the Tajik government of numerous violations of previous agreements. He cited as an example the "deployment of government troops in the Garma area, their offensive on the positions of opposition forces, air raids and bombardments of villages which result in civilian casualties."

Tajik-Afghan Border Violations Increase; Drugs Seized

LD1511174995 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1000 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Certain sources have noted the increasing number of violations of the Tajik-Afghan border. In October, Russian border guards prevented seven attempts at illegal crossings by Tajik opposition rebels in groups of varying numbers. Fourteen were detained for violating the border. Opposition guerrillas launched 17 provocative attacks, firing on border troops and at the Tajik border from automatic weapons and multiple rocket launchers from the territory of Afghanistan. Russian border guards have detained an illegal cargo of drugs. Last month alone they discovered and confiscated about 300 kg of raw opium, which usually comes from Afghanistan. Unfortunately, there were casualties. Eight border guards died on the Tajik-Afghan border and another eight were wounded in the course of duty.

U.S. Drug Interdiction Representatives Arrive in Dushanbe

LD1511145895 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0500 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On 14 November the Foreign Ministry reported that Mr. James House and Mr. Ronald Burins [both names phonetic], employees of the United States Fund for the Fight Against Drug Smuggling in Central Asia [as heard], have arrived in Dushanbe. They will have meetings with representatives from relevant ministries and departments within the government.

Turkmenistan

Niyazov, Ukraine's Lazarenko Hold Talks on Gas Cooperation

LD1511210395 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1830 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ashgabat — A Ukrainian Government delegation, led by Pavlo Lazarenko, first deputy prime minister, arrived in the capital of Turkmenistan today, Lazarenko's Press Secretary Mykhaylo Holyshev informed UNIAN.

The first deputy prime minister held official talks with Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov who spoke to Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma by telephone yesterday. The two presidents discussed earlier agreements on Turkmen gas deliveries to Ukraine and mutual payments.

The Ukrainian and Turkmen officials discussed a project to build the Kazandzhik-Kizyl-Arvat gas pipeline in Turkmenistan. The pipeline will be built by Ukraine at a cost of over $23 million, including $10 million written off as payment for Turkmen gas supplies. On 16 November, Lazarenko will meet experts of the Ukrhazbud company contracted to build the pipeline.

The two countries' officials will continue negotiations on 16 November. They are expected to sign two agreements, on Ukrainian expert involvement in the construction of a railway in Turkmenistan and the training of Turkmen servicemen in Ukraine, all in part payment for Turkmen gas deliveries.

Niyazov Attends Inauguration of Russian-Turkmen Bank

LD1511204595 Ashgabat TURKMEN PRESS in Russian 1600 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Ashgabat, 15 Nov (TURKMEN PRESS) — President Saparmurad Turkmenbashy [Niyazov] of Turkmenistan today took part in the opening ceremony of Russian Credit, a Turkmen-Russian bank. Russian Credit bank is today among the ten biggest banks in the Russian Federation. [passage omitted].

After the opening ceremony a news conference was held for Turkmen and Russian journalists. D. Lyubinin, chairman of the board of Russian Credit, stressed that the bank's branch in Turkmenistan represents the first successful experience of setting up a proper bank which will not only act as a bridge linking the economies of Turkmenistan and Russia, but can also play the role of a coordinating link in the Central Asian region. The Russian bankers explain their choice in terms of their confidence in Turkmenistan's great potential, in its economy and stable financial sphere. The main tasks of the joint bank are to serve international trade, to carry out currency market operations, to invest in international trade projects and to serve a number of joint Turkmen-Russian projects.

According to Batyr Bayryyev, the chairman of the board of the Turkmen-Russian Russian Credit bank, the newly-created bank will serve Turkmen-Russian joint ventures and in future will be able to draw in to cooperation such big partners as Turkmenistan's ministries of oil and gas and power engineering, as well as customers who operate at Turkmenistan's state commodity and raw materials exchange.

Russian Credit is the first Russian bank which has created a joint bank in Turkmenistan.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev's Party Scores Success in Parliamentary Elections

LD1511143495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1122 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, Nov 15 (Interfax) — The ruling New Azerbaijan Party led by President Geydar Aliyev is likely to have 18 of the 25 party ticket seats in national parliament, a spokesman for the Azerbaijani Central Electoral Commission told Interfax. Azerbaijan held parliamentary elections on November 12.

Those who ran on the National Independence Party ticket won four seats in the national legislature. The Popular Front ticket won two parliamentary mandates, and the Fatherland Party ticket one, the spokesman said. The National Independence Party, the Popular Front and the Fatherland Party are led, respectively, by Etibar Mamyedov, ex-President Abulfaz Elcibey and Fazail Agamaly.

The outcome of the elections in one-mandate election districts, which are due to send 100 deputies to parliament, remains unclear. A second round of the elections is likely to be held in approximately one third of those districts, the Commission spokesman said.

Also on November 12, Azerbaijan held a constitutional referendum. According to the latest counts, more than 90 percent of those who came to the polling stations voted in favor of the country's new Constitution.

And, the spokesman said, more than 80 percent of eligible voters cast ballots in both referendum and parliamentary elections.

Yeltsin Congratulates Aliyev

NC1511213895 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Congratulatory cables are coming to the Azerbaijani president on the conclusion of the election campaign. Here is the text of the cable sent by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to the head of state of Azerbaijan:

Esteemed Geydar Alirizaoglu, please accept my congratulations for the conclusion of the elections to the Azerbaijani National Assembly and the endorsement of Azerbaijan's new Constitution at the referendum. I am sure that these events, which have become important steps in the democratic development of the Azerbaijani society, will further consolidate the international prestige of the independent Azerbaijan. I am pleased that the traditional friendship and multisided cooperation between the Russian and Azerbaijani peoples are helping deepen the interaction between our countries, be it on bilateral level or within the CIS framework.

Esteemed Geydar Alirizaoglu, I wish you health and successes in your responsible work, and happiness and progress to the friendly Azerbaijani people.

Aliyev: Voters Endorsed New Constitution

NC1511192195 Baku TURAN in English 1253 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku/13.11.95/TURAN — "The people of Azerbaijan said "yes" to new Constitution of the country," the President Geydar Aliyev told today during his meeting with observers from Turkey. According to him, most of the electors supported the draft of the new basic law of the country.

"This Constitution will alow us to stop provocation of the external and internal enemies and to create a basis for formation the democratic state," the president said. He said that the new parliament would greatly differ from the previous, the new one will be better." Though the final results are not known yet, the lists of candidates shows that the new parliament will be stronger," Aliyev said.

The Turkish observers congratulated Geydar Aliyev with this achievement wished him success. [sentence as received]

PFA Criticizes 'Falsified' Elections

NC1511201795 Baku TURAN in English 1210 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku/13.11.95/TURAN — "The parliament formed by means of unjust, nonfree and falsified elections cannot be legitimate," reads the statement by the Party PFA [People's Front of Azerbaijan] issued today.

The Party PFA states that on the day of elections between 18.00 and 20.00 by local time only 15 and 20% of electors took part in the voting in more than 300 districts where the representatives of the party PFA presented. However, the official authorities reported that the elections had taken place in those districts.

"In most cases the observers were turned out by the police which acted very brutally and some of them were arrested," reads the document.

The party PFA states that after the observers were turned out the "bulletins in favor of the party PFA and some other independent candidates were taken out and replaced by the bulletins in favor of the leading party "Yeni Azerbaycan" [New Azerbaijan] and pro-governmental candidates."

According to the party PFA that testifies that parliamentary elections were not democratic and just.

APNI Leader Accuses Observers of Fraud

NC1511200295 Baku TURAN in English 1301 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku/14.11.95/TURAN — 40%-45% of electors voted for the Party of National Independence of Azerbaijan (APNI), TURAN was told by Etibar Mamedov, the leader of APNI. He referred to the observers of the observers from APNI. According to Mamedov, from 20.00 till 22.00 the police turned out the observers from the election posts and together with the representatives of local executive bodies began to falsify the results of elections. After that the party "Yeni Azerbaycan" [New Azerbaijan] turned to be on the first place.

Etibar Mamedov said that the voting according to proportional system in the cities and regions of the republic differ greatly. Thus, according to the information obtained by Mamedov from the observers "Yeni Azerbaycan" had 50% votes by electors, APNI — 26%- 30%, party PFA [People's Front of Azerbaijan] 20%-22%. In the regions these parties had 65%-67%, 19%-20% and 12%-15% votes respectively.

OSCE, UN Observers Not Allowed To See Counting

NC1511202095 Baku TURAN in English 1210 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku/13.11.95/TURAN — Yesterday before the counting the bulletins [as received] in the election district 90/91 in Jasamal district the police surrounded the building of School No 150, where this district is situated. All observers were turned out from these district. The policemen very badly treated the observers of the independent candidate Leyla Yunusova and people's actress of Azerbaijan Flora Kerimova.

Flora Kerimova told TURAN that while the voting the urn [as received] with bulletins for voting of sick people was several times taken out for a long time. The observers were not allowed to present while opening the urns for counting and voting. Even the representatives of the missions of the OSCE [Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe] and the UN were not allowed to present there.

In the other point of the same district only 275 people of 1255 took part in the voting. However, the election commission stated that there was a quorum in that point. The observers in all points noted that the police and representatives of local executive branches very brutally interfered the voting.

Aliyev Receives CIS Adviser at British Foreign Office

NC1511221395 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev today received Francis Richard, senior adviser on CIS and East European countries at the British Foreign Office. Saqit Ocagli reports:

[Begin Ocagli recording] Noting that he had been to Azerbaijan 20 years ago, the British guest particularly stressed that during his first visit to independent Azerbaijan he observed major changes in the Republic. Recalling President Geydar Aliyev's meeting with British Prime Minister John Major, the senior adviser spoke about the need to take a series of measures to develop cooperation between the two countries.

Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev noted that extensive ties have already been established and will be advanced between Britain and Azerbaijan. In evaluating the existing economic ties, our head of state appropriately assessed the productive activity of the British oil firms in Azerbaijan. He noted that the foundation has already been laid for good and sincere cooperation between the two countries. Saying that this is only the start, our head of state expressed the conviction that there are opportunities for further broadening and developing these relations.

Vafa Guluzade, state adviser on foreign policy affairs; Mahmud Mamedguliyev, deputy foreign minister and Azerbaijani ambassador to Britain; and British Ambassador to Azerbaijan Thomas Young attended the meeting. [end recording]

Georgia

Ioseliani Discusses Possible Arrest, Plans

AU1511142695 Tbilisi AKHALI TAOBA in Georgian 9 Nov 95 pp 1, 5

[Interview with Jaba Ioseliani, founder of the Mkhedrioni paramilitary organization, by Manana Iashvili; place and date not given: "They'll All Fly Off and I'll Remain!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 6 November, the television program "Audientsia" once more repeated that the procurator general [Jamlet Babilashvili] had issued a warrant for the arrest of Jaba Ioseliani. The foreign journalists who had arrived in Tbilisi for the elections were quick to seek confirmation from Jamlet Babilashvili that the television statement was correct. The procurator general stated that he did not have such information and knew nothing. In this connection, Jaba Ioseliani said: "How can he know nothing? He is the one to issue an arrest warrant. If he doesn't know, then how should I know? This card was played several times during the preelection period and I made a protest about it."

[Iashvili] Are you expecting to be arrested?

[Ioseliani] Of course. One should expect anything to happen, particularly as my guilt is announced directly on television. They have already proved that I am guilty. I don't know who this contact and agent is. He has already passed sentence. Why then do I need the court? I should now ask the contact how long my sentence is. Anyone would be astonished to learn that the Procurator's Office has not questioned me, there has been no trial, and the contact is passing sentence. This is our democracy. Let them at least tell me the length of my sentence and get it over with.

[Iashvili] Have you been in touch with television and the Ministry of Internal Affairs?

[Ioseliani] Yes. The television people said it was not for them to decide and that I should go to the Ministry of Internal Affairs press center. The press center said it got this information from the Procurator's Office.

[Iashvili] The Procurator's Office?

[Ioseliani] I have protested in writing to the Procurator's Office.

[Iashvili] Have you received a reply or do they also know nothing?

[Ioseliani] I got a reply but it was indirect and unofficial: "We will arrest you!" Naturally, they didn't say it themselves but got someone else to say it.

[Iashvili] What do you plan to do now? Are you thinking of leaving the country?

[Ioseliani] You know what? They'll all fly off and I'll remain here. I have no intention of going anywhere.

[Iashvili] You haven't got your bags packed, have you?

[Ioseliani] What for? I don't need them in prison. Those going to prison prepare warm clothes. These I have ready. We have a saying here: An honest man should have his horse saddled. I always have my horse saddled.

[Iashvili] What fate awaits the Mkhedrioni?

[Ioseliani] The time will come when everything will be cleared up. Our lads were heroes. Eight hundred men heroically laid down their lives. They were fighting for Georgia and democracy. Our oath states: We will spare nothing and will fight with all our hearts for democracy, the unity of Georgia, freedom, and so forth. What we swore to in our oath we have carried out. This was not just a declaration.

[Iashvili] Weren't Gelashvili and Khachishvili [former chairman of Rescue Corps and former deputy chairman of Security Service respectively, currently under arrest for suspicion of involvement in 29 August assassination attempt on Shevardnadze] at one time subordinate to you?

[Ioseliani] I can't understand you journalists. Shevardnadze was likewise a member of the Mkhedrioni. Who was not a member? Goguadze [speaker of Parliament] was also a member, [James] Baker as well. This was the Rescue Corps. I did not interfere in their business. It's possible they sometimes came to tell me something, for example, that they were appointing this person or that and did I have any objections. This was just out of respect, that's all. As for Khachishvili, I just don't know. He was in the Ministry of Internal Affairs for a time and then in the KGB. I have nothing to do with the KGB.

[Iashvili] If they arrest you, do you think they'll put you away for a long time?

[Ioseliani] I don't think they will arrest me, but, if they do, I don't think they will hold me for long as innocent people are not kept in prison for long. After all, this is not the 18th century or the Stalinist period, although there are some who dream of the return of those days.

[Iashvili] You don't seem at all nervous?

[Ioseliani] Why should I be nervous? That's life. Sometimes things turn out this way. Everything can happen. This was exactly how it was during Gamsakhurdia's [former President] time.

[Iashvili] You say that innocent people are not locked up for long, but there are innocent people in prison.

[Ioseliani] I do not think the public will allow this to happen without reacting in the appropriate manner. During the last four to five years, society has become more aware of injustices and has had such experiences that it will not tolerate this so easily. There will be a reaction, and it will not stop but swell up and increase.

[Iashvili] Why was the opposition defeated in the elections?

[Ioseliani] There are many reasons. First, they were split. Then, they were squabbling over trifles in Parliament instead of discussing more global issues.

[Iashvili] In your view, were there violations during the elections?

[Ioseliani] Of course. The police issued direct warnings to people and rumors were spread that I had been arrested and who votes for someone who has been arrested.

[Iashvili] What are your future plans?

[Ioseliani] I will continue doing what I've being doing up to now. I'm chairman of the Mkhedrioni organization and will carry on as such. I'll also write and do some theater work [Ioseliani is a playwright by profession]. It's not essential to sit in Parliament. One can continue one's political life outside of it.

[Iashvili] Shevardnadze said there was an alliance between Patiashvili [former presidential candidate, former first secretary of Georgian Communist Party] and Giorgadze [former presidential candidate, chairman of United Communist Party] and that they had planned everything together.

[Ioseliani] I don't know. They both worked together on the [Communist Party] Central Committee. I didn't work with them there. Let them get together and work out among themselves who will blow whom up and who wants what.

[Iashvili] Do you now regret that you brought Shevardnadze back?

[Ioseliani] No, I have no regrets. This was necessary. It was politically justified.

[Iashvili] There is such a saying that a revolution can be made....

[Ioseliani] Yes. This is a standard historic phenomenon.

[Iashvili] Did you know that things would turn out as they did?

[Ioseliani] Of course. I knew this not only yesterday but 10 years ago and, anyway, Machiavelli wrote about this 500 years ago.

[Iashvili] You say that the same thing will happen to you as happened under Gamsakhurdia.

[Ioseliani] Yes, but Shevardnadze is a little more clever. That one was a little mad.

[Iashvili] Will there be any changes now in Shevardnadze's policy or can he expect the same fate that befell Gamsakhurdia?

[Ioseliani] He is now already president. This is a very serious thing. If he wants to remain as president and go down in history as the builder of a democratic state, he should unite the nation. He now has a great chance to do this. If he proceeds along the path of confrontation, nothing will come of it. No economic plans and no credits and investments will save the people if they are not united. If he proceeds along this path, I will forget my horse and stand alongside him. However, if he chooses confrontation and intrigues, everything will perish and nothing will be saved.

No Official Confirmation of Ioseliani's Arrest

LD1511193595 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1600 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] According to the information received through unofficial sources, it has been established that a former member of parliament, Jaba Ioseliani, was detained today. [passage omitted]

We consciously refrain from commenting on this instance, and we will leave it to representatives of the competent bodies to express their views on this issue. However, it is a shame that we used the Russian television news program as the source of information. The reason for this is the following: Despite all our efforts, we have not yet received official, verified, and trustworthy information from the Georgian law enforcement bodies.

Prosecutor's Office Issues Statement

LD1511210295 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1800 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Here is a statement by the press center of the Georgian Prosecutor's Office:

A terrorist act was carried out on 29 August in Tbilisi. This act was directed against the head of state. The prosecutor general instituted a criminal case on the same day. In order to find a remote-control device, the buildings adjacent to parliament were searched. At parliament's consent, the parliament building was also searched, including deputy Jaba Ioseliani's room, as well as his personal bodyguards' rooms. [passage omitted]

The prosecutor general issued a warrant for Ioseliani's arrest on 30 August of this year under Article 24 of the law on deputy's status — being caught red-handed. Proceeding from certain operational points of view, it was not possible to arrest him. As a result of additional searches on 31 August, 1 September, and later on, law enforcement bodies again withdrew from the parliament building 32 automatic weapons owned by the Rescue Corps, one machine-gun, 82 shells, one mine launcher, two antitank grenade launchers, 24 cartridges for automatic weapons, six hand grenades, and a great deal of ammunition and explosives, which had been illegally kept in the cellar at Ioseliani's order. [passage omitted]

During the investigation, Ioseliani's complicity in the terrorist act of 29 August, as well as other terrorist acts, began to shape up. This made him even more responsible. On 15 November of the current year, the Interior Ministry received information that Jaba Ioseliani was planning to escape abroad just like one of the organizers of the terrorist act, Igor Giorgadze, the former chief of the Security Service, and his other accomplices. This would have hampered the investigation process and a timely verification of the truth. Therefore, a decision to arrest him was promptly made.

The chairman of the Central Electoral Commission was verbally notified about this instance. The Central Electoral Commission adopted a resolution demanding that a candidate for deputy, Jaba Ioseliani, be promptly freed.

An investigation is under way.

Elections Official Calls Arrest 'Illegal'

LD1511184095 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Georgian 1445 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tbilisi — [passage omitted] Koba Davitashvili, the deputy head of the legal department, at today's session of the Central Electoral Commission said in connection with the arrest of Jaba Ioseliani that this action was a clear confirmation that a conspiracy against the authorities was being prepared and that now it was clear where this conspiracy stemmed from.

Davitashvili clarified that Ioseliani's arrest was illegal and called on the commission members to cut short the session until the issue of Ioseliani was resolved.

As a result of a draw, the Central Electoral Commission adopted a resolution which was sent to the Georgian Prosecutor's Office, following which, the commission stopped working.

Commission Demands Ioseliani's Release

LD1511184495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1629 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, Nov 15 (Interfax) — Georgia's Central Electoral Commission has asked the Prosecutor General's office to immediately release from detention parliamentary candidate Dzhaba Ioseliani, the leader of the paramilitary group Mkhedrioni.

Ioseliani was reportedly detained at his country home near Tbilisi on November 15. He is accused of illegally keeping arms and drugs and suspected of complicity in the terrorist attack against Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze on August 29.

The Central Electoral Commission has said that Ioseliani as a parliamentary candidate is immune to prosecution until the election returns are announced and that his detention is a crude violation of the law.

Meanwhile, official sources in Tbilisi, including the Georgian Prosecutor's Office, have made no statements over Ioseliani's detention yet.

Second Round Parliament Elections Set for 19 Nov

LD1511175295 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The second round of the first-past-the-post elections to the Georgian Parliament will be held on 19 November. In all of 10 electoral districts in Tbilisi, as well as in electoral district No. 42, of two deputies, the one who has polled more votes during the first round will be elected. According to Central Electoral Commission data, 32 deputies who had participated in the first-past-the-post elections, won seats in parliament right after the first round. The elections in Rustavi electoral district have been postponed until next spring.

Communist Party Leader Condemns 'One-Party' Parliament

AU1511162695 Tbilisi REZONANSI in Georgian 9-10 Nov 95 p 2

[Interview with Panteleimon Giorgadze, chairman of the United Communist Party and former presidential candidate, by Eliso Chapidze in Tbilisi; date not given: "'We Will Tell the Truth About the Elections,' States Panteleimon Giorgadze"]

[FBIS Translated Text] REZONANSI spoke with Panteleimon Giorgadze, chairman of the United Communist Party.

[REZONANSI] How would you assess the election results?

[Giorgadze] We had been expecting much fairer elections. Today, our party numbers 152,000 and there are 240,000 who have party cards. Yet, it follows from the election results that members of our party did not vote for our bloc. In every new announcement, the chairman of the Central Electoral Commission raises the number of participants in the elections. We hope that we will be able to overcome the 5-percent barrier. On election day, it was announced that Patiashvili [Shevardnadze's main rival for the presidency] and I had been arrested. Is this not a violation of the law? Is this democracy?

[REZONANSI] If fair elections had been held, who do you think would have won?

[Giorgadze] The presidential elections would probably have been won by Shevardnadze. I knew this all along. However, I hoped that they would have elected a strong Parliament that would have prevented Shevardnadze from implementing nonnational decisions. Unfortunately, what we now have is, to all intents and purposes, a one-party Parliament. It is composed wholly of Shevardnadze's supporters.

[REZONANSI] You previously viewed the National-Democrats [one of three organizations to win seats in the new Parliament] as an opposition party.

[Giorgadze] This was an agreement struck between the National- Democratic Party [NDP] and the authorities. The NDP has recently changed its ideals and direction in general. It will not be an opposition party. It will be a formal opposition.

[REZONANSI] They are saying that Panteleimon Giorgadze was the only presidential candidate who did not vote for himself in the presidential elections. Is this true?

[Giorgadze] That is right. I did not want to become president. I wanted to bring my people out of their state of shock and to tell them the truth.

[REZONANSI] Then why did you stand for the presidency?

[Giorgadze] I wanted to say the truth about the current regime from a high platform. I wanted to show the West that their illustrious democrat has not been a democrat for a long time now. I have partly managed to do this. Therefore, I greeted the election results with a smile. However, I can now say that we can expect worse from the new government. I feel sorry for the Georgian population, particularly the young people.

[REZONANSI] If your son [Igor Giorgadze] had remained security chief, do you think the elections would have been conducted differently?

[Giorgadze] I have lately come to suspect that this is precisely the reason why everything has turned out as it has. With Igor gone, Georgia does not have a security service but government stooges.

[REZONANSI] Do you have any news about your son?

[Giorgadze] Nothing. I do not even know how he got on in the elections in Samtredia.

[REZONANSI] Are you convinced of his innocence today?

[Giorgadze] I do not think Igor would have sacrificed young people in that way. He did not kill Gia Chanturia [former NDP chairman]. All this is a fabrication. [previous sentence published in Russian]

[REZONANSI] Will you continue your political activities?

[Giorgadze] Naturally. We will perhaps unite with the national forces. We do not have weapons and do not intend to start shooting, but we will say everywhere that the Georgian Parliament has been elected on the basis of violations. Foreigners cannot understand this. Who told them that Georgian television announced that Patiashvili and I were criminals. We will tell the truth about the elections.

Duma Delegation Campaigns Among Russians in Abkhazia

LD1511180695 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Russian 1510 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A group of deputies of the Russian Federation State Duma is currently visiting Sukhumi. The group is led by Konstantin Zatulin, chairman of the State Duma Committee for CIS Affairs and Links with Compatriots. He is a good friend of Ardzinba's and his milieu.

The representatives of the Russian State Duma are holding talks with the separatist leadership and at the same time campaigning among Abkhazia's Russian population, urging them to participate in the forthcoming parliamentary elections in Russia and to vote for those deputies who sympathize with Abkhaz separatists.

Rumors of Imminent Georgian Army Attack Spread in Sukhumi

LD1511145195 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Georgian 1155 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sukhumi [no date as received] — According to reliable sources, panic has spread among those Abkhaz people who participated in the genocide of the Georgian population. Rumors have been spread in the town that the Georgian Army will attack in the near future. The militants' families have prepared for this occasion; it has become known that many of them have already bought properties in Krasnodar Kray and other regions of Russia.

Estonia

Ministry Deems Russian Official's Statement 'Groundless'

WS1611110395 Tallinn ETA in English
1559 GMT 15 Nov 95

["News Release"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Nov. 15 — The statement by the official representative of Russian Foreign Ministry of Tuesday [14 November] is absolutely groundless and entirely tendentious, Estonian Foreign Ministry spokesman Juri Arusoo told ETA on Wednesday.

Head of Russian Foreign Ministry information and press department Grigoriy Karasin criticized on Tuesday human rights situation in Estonia, stating that Estonian representatives reactions to the UN human rights committee November session conclusions in Geneva were "sickly".

Karasin said at a briefing in Moscow that Estonia's reaction creates uneasiness and confirms that "Tallinn intends to continue discriminative policies towards a third of the population of the state, that is the main obstacle in normalizing relations between Estonia and Russia".

Arusoo said that it was a "random coincidence" that Russian side already for the second time makes sharp statements against Estonia just before the start of a round of Estonian-Russian border talks.

Before the Estonian-Russian border talks round on October 23 and 24, Russian Foreign Ministry made an official statement saying that a document presented by Estonia to the UN includes crude distortions and is an "unfriendly act towards the Russian state".

Einseln Accuses Russia of Launching 'Blackmail Campaign'

WS1611092895 Tallinn BNS in English
1305 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Nov 15, BNS — Lt. Gen. Aleksander Einseln, the commander of the Estonian defense forces, maintains Russia has launched a blackmail campaign against him.

"I have information from several sources showing that somebody is conducting some (campaign) against me," Einseln told reporters in Tallinn on Tuesday [14 November].

He said he had learned about a Russian blackmail campaign from both Estonian and foreign sources, adding meanwhile he had no proof to present.

Einseln mentioned Russia's campaign against him for the first time in Saturday's issue of the Postimees daily. He told the paper Moscow had launched a long-term blackmail campaign against him.

Both security police chief Juri Pihl and the head of the defense forces general staff intelligence department, Riho Uhtegi, have assured they have no information about the alleged blackmail campaign against the defense forces' commander.

Einseln is Estonia's only top military commander with a Western higher military education. Before his appointment as the head of the country's defense forces, he held high posts at the U.S. general staff and the Department of Defense.

Over the last few months, several scandals have jolted the general staff of the Estonian defense forces. In September, the financial department head was found out in arms smuggling. In November, a Defense Ministry audit of the general staff uncovered payroll overspending to the tune of almost one million kroons.

Einseln on Monday dismissed Col. Arvo Sirel, the chief of staff.

Agreement Initialled During Border Talks With Russia

LD1511185095 Tallinn Estonian Television Network in Russian 1645 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Another round of talks between the groups of experts of the Republic of Estonia and the Russian Federation on the border issue between the two countries, ended in Tallinn today.

At a news conference on the outcome of their meeting, the working groups leaders, Russian Ambassador-at-Large Vasiliy Svirin and Raul Malk, a deputy chancellor of the Estonian Foreign Ministry, were unanimous in their evaluation of the interim results. The last two rounds of talks — the one in Pskov at the end of October and the present one in Tallinn — have clearly established the parties' aspirations on moving forward toward a solution on the long-standing border issue between Estonia and Russia.

It is a result of the talks in Tallinn that an agreement on two countries' border representatives has been ratified. As far as the sea border is concerned — along the Narva river — the prospects are quite clear. After some more work this issue will also be resolved quite soon.

However, concerning the third draft agreement between the two countries, on the general document on the Estonian-Russian state border, as before the stumbling block is the parties' approach to the [1920] Tartu Peace

Treaty. The Russian side is willing to recognize its role in the history of the Estonian statehood, the Estonian side insists that it must be recognized as a foundation for the principle of the succession of the Republic of Estonia. No matter, the working groups' leaders on both sides voiced their desire to sew up this problem in relations between Russia and Estonia.

As far as the border on [?dry land] is concerned, as Malk emphasized in particular, it will run in the main where it is running at present, with a few local adjustments taking into account actual situations. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Addresses WEU Meeting

WS1511152295 Tallinn ESTONIA TODAY in English 1759 GMT 14 Nov 95

[Speech by Estonian Minister of Foreign Affairs Siim Kallas at the meeting of foreign and defense ministers of the Western European Union (WEU) in Madrid on 14 November]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mr. Secretary-General, Mr. Chairman, Esteemed Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank the Chairman for his overview of this morning's discussions. Indeed, the topics that the "eighteen" discussed today—including the operational development of the WEU and the WEU's contribution to the IGC [not further expanded] — concern us directly. Despite the importance of these issues to Estonia, our input was minimum. I hope in the future we can be more involved, in order that Associate Partners may contribute more extensively to the WEU's work. Estonia, through its active involvement in previous projects, has already demonstrated that it can contribute to the growth and success of this organisation.

I am encouraged by the opportunity to strengthen our involvement in WEU activities by way of Forces Available for WEU operations. One meeting of our military representatives with the Planning Cell has already occurred and another is planned. Estonia will also participate in select Council meetings during the upcoming exercises entitled "CRISEX '95." However, we can go further.

In addition to our men and women at arms, Estonia would also like to contribute its minds to the implementation of this program. I believe that Associate Partners which have submitted forces should be allowed to participate in the work of the Political and Military Group. I also believe that Associate Partners should be given the opportunity to participate in the planning and implementation of WEU exercises.

As far as the WEU's contribution to the IGC is concerned, we would like to receive this document, as it affects my country as well. Estonia places its highest priority on integration into European and transatlantic structures. We will soon submit our formal application for EU membership. Our sights are also set on WEU membership at the soonest opportunity. The document concerning the IGC would assist us on our road to membership. We also believe it is essential for our future security to preserve the Atlantic Alliance's effectiveness while maintaining the WEU's vital role in European security.

To conclude, I once again appeal for increasing Associate Partner involvement in future WEU activities. This body would be well served by the skills, knowledge and dedication which Associate Partners possess in meeting the challenges before us all.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Further Remarks by Mr. Siim Kallas

Mr. Chairman,

I thank you again for the floor. I am especially pleased to welcome the completion of the paper entitled Common Reflections on the New European Security Condition. Estonia views this as an important step in constructing a new and comprehensive European security structure.

The Common Reflections paper represents a building block for our future defences, carved out of our mutual security interests. Chapter One presents a realistic survey of the current security environment as well as possible security threats. Chapter Two presents a blueprint to produce stability through a Common Foreign and Security Policy. What these two create is a workable plan to restructure Europe's security architecture in combination with the two bedrocks of European stability — the EU and NATO.

For the first time since the fall of Communism, twenty-seven states agreed on common security principles and their implementation. Having come to an agreement, we must extend this consensus to our efforts in other international fora. We need to develop — not reinvent — new security structures.

I praise Common Reflections not only for its content, but because of the process involved in this effort. All twenty-seven members within the WEU family contributed to its drafting. These states represent members and aspiring members of both the WEU and the EU that have a vested interest in strengthening future security structures.

Estonia does not view this report as an end of itself. We are a small country that lives by the motto that "actions speak louder than words." We therefore seek implementation of policies outlined in our common reflections. My hope is that the Common Reflections are met with an iron will to act.

Regarding the present conflict in former-Yugoslavia, Estonia is encouraged that the peace negotiations underway in Dayton, Ohio may bring an end to the fighting. I would also like to state that Estonia remains ready and willing to reinforce a peace settlement through military and civilian support to the region.

I stand firmly behind Estonia's commitment to send peace-implementing troops to former-Yugoslavia. We have previously supported the peace process by contributing troops to the UN peacekeeping force in Croatia. Their return to the region is a contribution to European security I believe Estonia must continue to make. NATO is aware of our willingness to participate in international forces and we await its reply.

The implementation of peace will have many different facets. A return to day-to-day living requires more than troops. In addition to soldiers, Estonia would offer the knowledge of its civilian experts in rebuilding war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina. We believe that the experience these civilians posses from our own transition to a democratic society and market economy will be of vital assistance.

As a European nation that also suffered through wars and forced relocations, Estonia cannot accept that war crimes committed in former-Yugoslavia would go unpunished. In addition, Estonia will continue to pay attention to the problems facing thousands of refugees fleeing, or returning, to the region. A lasting peace demands that these human issues be addressed as well.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Kallas: No Security Guarantees Without U.S. Involvement

LD1511212095 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 2000 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] It would be better for Estonia if the Western European Union did not become an organization under the European Union, Estonian Foreign Minister Siim Kallas noted today on his return from a scheduled meeting of EU foreign and defense ministers. He said that, on the one hand, the EU member states are of the opinion that the Western European Union might be the EU's independent security structure, which would duplicate NATO and act in parallel with NATO. The other view is that, without NATO — or in other words, without the United States — nothing will come of guaranteeing any security. Estonia is rather in favor of the second view, Kallas said.

Estonia views North Atlantic cooperation as very important and fails to see that a structure could emerge without the United States offering true security guarantees to Europe. [passage omitted]

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